

SigEp Journal

Sigma Phi Epsilon

SPRING 2012



Going Global:

**Brothers bridge international borders
to leave their mark**

**New Hampshire brother
is a life-saving perfect
match...twice! page 19**

**Fellowship of the ring:
Class ring returned after
43 years, page 38**

**Mattel Chairman Bob Eckert, left,
and Macy's CEO Terry Lundgren:
Arizona Chapter brothers exemplify
values-based global leadership, page 22**



Bert Harris III, Florida '74, received his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Florida, and he completed a J.D. at Florida State in 1979. He is the attorney for the Town of Lake Placid, Fla., where his practice areas include civil litigation, real property and land use.

In 1993, Harris was appointed as a trustee of the National Housing Corporation (which became SigEp National Housing, LLC, in 2009). He served as president of the National Housing Corporation from 1995 through 2009. Harris was elected to the National Board of Directors in 2003, and he was elected Grand Secretary of the Board in 2009. At the 2011 Conclave in Phoenix, Ariz., Harris became the 55th Grand President of Sigma Phi Epsilon.

Greetings Brothers,

With leadership comes great responsibility. Any frontrunner will tell you that leading the pack is more challenging than building off of the efforts of others. SigEp has long embraced the job of frontrunner. In that spirit, I believe that we have several opportunities for SigEp to enhance its reputation as America's most innovative, successful college Fraternity.

Balanced Man Program

I sense that a significant majority of our brothers are dedicated to supporting the Balanced Man Program (BMP). I also sense that many strong chapters—pledge-model and BMP—demand a better, more relevant member development curriculum.

The Balanced Man Program has been the benchmark in fraternity member development. Brother **Frank Ruck, Michigan '46**, and others developed the ideals and structure of the Balanced Man Program over 20 years ago. The BMP leveraged the enduring principles of learning: individual learning, group success, healthy competition and challenges throughout the college experience.

While the BMP was the benchmark, we need to do a better job of implementation and providing support for the BMP. *The Quest* has not transitioned from textbooks to laptops and iPads. We are going to make sure the Epsilon and Brother Mentor Challenges are more focused on preparing our members for life after college. We are committed to reintroducing and strengthening the aspects of experiential learning and Sound Body programming into the BMP. Certainly, exceptional chapters have exceptional programs—and we will learn from them.

The National Board of Directors determined that we will rethink and reinvigorate the Balanced Man Program. Our objective is to create and support a development program that will be demanded by all brothers. Work began when **John Schuyler, Western Michigan '00**, and **Bryan Kaminski, Johns Hopkins '06**, led a focus group of 12 chapter presidents hailing from Balanced Man Program and pledge-model chapters in Boulder, Colo., the birthplace of the BMP. Their singular aim was to identify strengths, weaknesses and opportunities of the Balanced Man Program.

Step two was the creation of a Task Force charged with engaging our undergraduate brothers and alumni who are experts in various fields as we consider a more appealing and dynamic approach to the member development experience.

When we conclude this process, I'm confident we will be a stronger Fraternity and a more valued partner in higher education.

Please provide your comments and suggestions regarding our Fraternity's work to create the best SigEp experience by emailing communications@sigep.net.

Foundation

The National Board of Directors will also be working with SigEp's Educational Foundation to improve our fundraising efforts through better teamwork and more resources to inspire giving. Fundraising is essential to appropriately support our chapters with state-of-the-art programming and housing. We hope to create a fraternal culture of giving so the SigEp experience is better and broader than the one we enjoyed.

Hazing

I am deeply saddened by the rise in hazing among collegiate Greek-letter organizations. In addition to creating victims, hazing wreaks havoc on the repu-

tation of the Greek community. In most states, hazing is a crime. This past fall, the National Board of Directors revoked three charters and transferred the charters of 10 other chapters to Alumni Advisory Councils all because of hazing. *During 2011, 602 men lost the opportunity to have a SigEp college experience because of hazing.*

In August 2011, the National Board of Directors voted to support the criminal prosecution of anyone hazing our brothers or new members. I intend to refer members, regardless of their chapter, to criminal prosecution if they haze my young brothers.

The majority of our SigEp chapters and members stand against hazing—often in the face of campus norms. I ask every brother to redouble your efforts against hazing. Ensure that our brothers benefit from a constructive member development experience. We must continue to confront those who haze our young brothers.

Sincerely,

BERT HARRIS III
Grand President

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Arizona Chapter brothers Bob Eckert, left, and Terry Lundgren face the leadership challenges of global business head on.

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Journal field reporters

Steve Dorsey, American '09
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Brian Shawn, North Dakota '02
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Kevin Teets, Tennessee-Martin '06
David Wenzel, Cincinnati '06
Trey Wydysh, Richmond '07

Featured Photographers

Scott Bickford, Longwood '93
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Sean Leahey, George Mason '96
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SigEp Journal

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The *SigEp Journal* is published by Sigma Phi Epsilon, founded in 1901, for undergraduates and alumni of the Fraternity.

The *Journal* strives to show how the SigEp experience has improved the lives of undergraduates and alumni over time, to encourage involvement and financial support, and to instill pride in the mission and accomplishments of the Fraternity.



Submissions

Deadlines for submitting articles, photos and story ideas for the *Journal* come in the following weeks each year: Spring: February 1; Fall: July 1. E-mail submissions to communications@sigep.net. Send submissions to Journal Editor, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Virginia 23220.

The *Journal* welcomes all submissions. For more detailed guidelines, go to www.sigep.org/publications. Decisions to publish material we have received is based on the sole discretion of the editorial staff.

Letters to the editor

The *Journal* welcomes your comments and perspective on what you read here and other issues related to the Fraternity. Send your e-mail to communications@sigep.net. Please include your name, school and graduation year. Letters and social media posts may be edited for clarity and space.

Advertising

Advertising is accepted in half-page or full page increments. Deadlines for artwork: Spring: March 1; Fall: August 1. For ad specifications, please e-mail communications@sigep.net.

Subscriptions

The *Journal* is mailed to every member with an active address in our database. Ten copies are mailed to chapter presidents. If members move, they need to update their address at www.sigep.org/update. Parents or members can send an e-mail to address.update@sigep.net with a new address to keep SigEp records current.

The SigEp Journal

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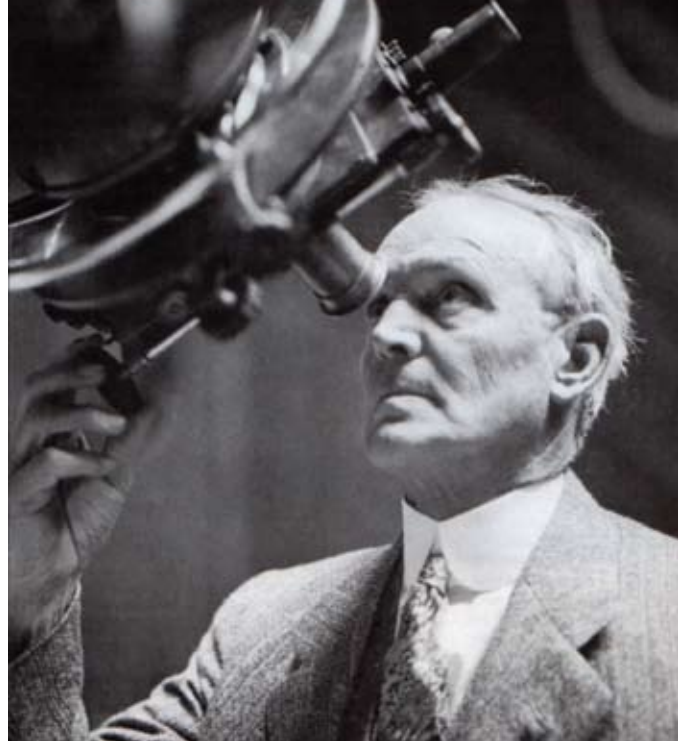
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Representing 100 years of SigEp leadership in innovation, scholarship and academics, Brother Robert Grant Aitken, California-Berkeley Renaissance, a noted astronomer and head of the world-famous Lick Observatory near San Francisco, was featured in the Spring 2002 *Journal*.

New Chapter Development

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28: Stephen C. Valente,
Middle Tennessee State '96

Vacant districts not listed

10 years ago in SigEp

Compiled by JAN BRAMMER

Three new SigEp programs were introduced in 2002 to raise the bar for new member education and leadership development: New member camps (now called EDGE), the Ruck Leadership Institute, and the Tragos Quest to Greece. "All in all the programs offered work toward building a better man. A stronger man. A balanced leader," the article stated. Read more about the latest program innovations from SigEp on page 44.

"As a result of the Ruck Leadership Institute, I have become a more conscious and perceptive decision-maker, both in academia and the professional world." ~ ANDREW DOLLAR, SOUTHERN MISSISSIPPI '02
QUOTE FROM THE SUMMER 2002 JOURNAL

Today Dollar is a small business owner and has served as an AVC president. He reflects back on his Ruck experience. "The Ruck Leadership Institute provides an immeasurable opportunity for young emerging leaders to learn from the Fraternity's top strategic thinkers. The lessons learned through Ruck continually guide me in

my daily life. I was able to add better decision making tools and hone my interpersonal communication skills to deal with life's common challenges. Whether it is change, expansion or complex situations, my participation in Ruck provided me a solid foundation to efficiently lead my business. I now possess the added

confidence of leadership training to make the decisions needed through different scenarios. One of these days, I want to write the book 'Everything I learned about business, I learned from my Fraternity.' Ruck, the mentors and the lessons are just one of the many chapters in the book."



Drake commits to personal best



Members of the Drake Sigma Epsilon Chapter commit to helping each other with their academics and achieving their personal best. If a member's GPA drops below a 2.75, members help tutor, provide academic resources and find a way to drive the GPA up. The chapter leadership takes academics seriously, knowing they must hold themselves to the same standard.

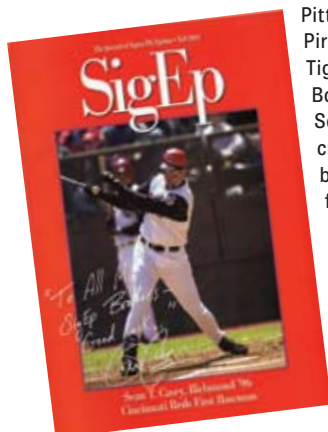
Wright State Chapter dedicated the campus rock to September 11 victims.



Sean T. Casey, Richmond '96 (as Cincinnati Reds first baseman)

Brother Casey, nicknamed "The Mayor," is a former Major League Baseball first baseman for the Cleveland Indians, Cincinnati Reds,

Pittsburgh Pirates, Detroit Tigers and Boston Red Sox. Casey is currently a broadcaster for the MLB Network.



SigEp chapters installed in 2002, celebrating 10 years since chartering:

Rider | February 2, 2002
Clarkson | April 6, 2002
Drexel | October 19, 2002

Re-chartered chapters:

Southwest Missouri State | February 23, 2002
Maine | May 4, 2002



"Remember your past, celebrate our present, and invest in the future, Sigma Phi Epsilon's second century."

~ ED HAMMOND IN HIS GRAND PRESIDENT'S LETTER FROM THE SUMMER 2002 JOURNAL

Edward H. Hammond, Emporia State '66, was Grand President. Hammond served 12 years on the National Board of Directors. He is currently the President of Fort Hays State University, in Hays, Kan.

SigEp mom gets help from her son...and a bunch of his brothers, too

Over the past three years, brothers from the Quinnipiac Chapter have demonstrated leadership through their involvement with the Ed Walsh Memorial Special Education Field Day in Teaneck, N.J.

The physical education staff of the Teaneck school district along with the Special Education Department holds an annual event, designed to give the special needs students in pre-kindergarten through sixth grade an opportunity to participate in a series of athletic and fun activities. The event takes place at Fairleigh Dickenson University's Rothman Center and is attended by students, staff and parents.

About three years ago **Jonathan Badras, Quinnipiac '10**, my son, offered to assist me with my students. Teaneck schools, like many school districts, has seen large cuts in funding for support staff, and Jon suggested that he could bring some hands to help. He wasn't kidding.

A significant number of young men came, from all over the Northeast to help ensure a safe and fun environment for these unique athletes. The brothers helped set up, run and clean up the day's activities, but most importantly, they came to play and interact with the

children. The population is quite varied, from children with minor learning disabilities to severely autistic and physically impaired adolescents.

That first year was vastly successful, and the children asked for the brothers to return. What started out as a son offering some hands to help his mom, has turned into an annual event. Many SigEp brothers arrive in New Jersey the evening before the event. Others join as the equipment arrives, and then it's all hands on deck to prepare for the parade of athletes from all the



Jonathan Badras, '10, center front in light blue shirt, is surrounded by some of his Quinnipiac chapter brothers who helped him and his mom run an annual event for special education students in the Teaneck, N.J. school district. Below, Louis Venturelli, '11, pauses for a few participants. The kids asked for the brothers to come back after having so much fun with them the first year.

schools. The culminating event is always the tug-of-war. This year, once again, the brothers of SigEp unfortunately lost to the youngest participants in a hard fought match, bringing the loudest cheers from all those attending the day's events.

I am forever grateful for these young men from SigEp. My son Jonathan's experiences with the Fraternity have helped turn him into the focused and caring man he is today. Jon thrived and blossomed as a result of the experiences, support and friendships he formed while at Quinnipiac. A lot of his personal sense of maturity is due to his experiences with the Fraternity. Jonathan graduated two years ago, and his SigEp brothers continue to play a major role in his life. I hope that for many years to come, these fine young men will continue to participate in the Teaneck Special Education

Field Day, and they will always be welcome in my home. The presence of these respectful, intelligent and caring young men makes all those who interact with them proud and thankful for their support.

The brothers of Connecticut Epsilon expect to keep this annual community service tradition strong by sending yet another contingent of leaders to help run the event this spring. As a parent and as a professional educator, I am very proud of Jonathan and his Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity brothers.

Sincerely,

RANDY BADRAS

Physical Education Teacher of Teaneck Public Schools and SigEp Mom



In case you don't hear it enough

Dear Gay-Lynn,

Today I received my hard copy of the *Journal* (it was temporarily waylaid in a neighbor's mailbox). And WOW! I really mean WOW! I cannot express my effusive praise properly.

This edition of the *Journal* was spectacular, and

it is a testament to your leadership and skill that our Fraternity's publication has come so far. This has to be, bar none, the best edition of the magazine I have seen. I loved the "By the Numbers" section, the regional map highlighting our top performing academic chapters, and

the "Fifty Years Ago" segment, to say nothing of the articles. Just awesome.

I'm not sure this can be said enough: Many thanks to you and your team for a tremendous job well done.

Best,

MICHAEL SELBY
Eastern Michigan '02

Editor's note: The *Journal* relies on over two dozen writers for each issue, and many more send in photos, offer feedback and design the magazine. We are always looking to improve, so please write us and tell us what you think! Send your comments to communications@sigep.net. Thanks.

Please send your comments or letters to the editor to communications@sigep.net, or mail to SigEp Headquarters, 310 S. Boulevard, Richmond VA 23220. Letters and social media posts may be edited for clarity and length.



Carlson Leadership Academy

SigEp continued to integrate social media into its programs at the latest Carlson Leadership Academies this February. Hundreds of people tweeted about their experience using a CLA hashtag for each location. Attendees watched their tweets pop up on the projection screen during meals. Below are a few of our Facebook posts and tweets during our five programs in Irvine, Calif.; Dallas, Texas; Stamford, Conn.; Chicago, Ill. and Atlanta, Ga.

PHOTO BY CAREY HECKMAN, DARTMOUTH '76



Carlson Leadership Academy comments from Facebook:

Mike Ventura • Just spent an amazing two days at Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity (Official) Carlson Leadership Academy in Atlanta with about 700 undergraduate SigEps from southern colleges and universities. There IS hope for the future! #SigEp

Dr. Eric Tyler • Eric Richard Tyler connecting through Atlanta on the way to Belize right now. Great to see the enthusiasm in the airport of the undergraduates with their SigEp letters on. Best for a great Carlson Leadership Academy

BU SigEp • All 13 of our brothers who attended Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity (Official)'s Carlson Leadership Academy in Stamford, CT had a great time and can't wait to help our chapter grow and succeed.

Herb Philpott • Inspiring and energizing Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity (Official) Carlson Leadership Academy this weekend! Congrats to all who made it happen, especially Alex Woodlief, Carey Heckman, and the national staff.

Read more posts and make comments at www.facebook.com/sigmaphiepsilon



Tweets about Carlson Leadership Academy 2012:

Wallace Mullins @Wallace_Mullins • Slick suits, big dreams. #CLADallas

Michael Johnston @advomike19 • @officialsigep I love that our sacred ritual still lives and flows through my heart #TXBeta 05 #CLADallas

Michael Scherr @Mscherr85 • If you're not a Leader, you're wasting your time in life #CLAIrvine

David Calderon @drcalderon • #CLAIrvine = Epic. @officialsigep staff and facilitators awesome. I am blessed with fabulous brothers and friends.

sigepmaeta @SigEpMAeta • @officialsigep we've got nine guys headed down to #CLASTamford excited to pick up some tips on how to win a second straight Buc Cup

Scott Twidle @smtwidle • Got to be guide for brother Brian Gerlach at #CLASTamford in front of all the chapters. Never been more proud or honored. @officialsigep

Alex Ashoff @Saint_Ashoff • "Diligence- the unrelenting commitment to excellence" #CLASTamford @officialsigep

Jacob Ward @JWard530 • @officialsigep having a blast at #CLASTamford bringing some great ideas and a trunk full of awards back to ME. Go ME Alpha

Andy Buder @awbuder • We have to rechoose excellence every day of our lives #CLASTamford

Tyler Bean @tbean9315 • First night at #CLChicago was great. Future VP of Recruitment right here. Intense day of activities tomorrow. #GetSome #Boom

Tony Botts @Tony_Botts • Up bright and early for #CLChicago. Time to gain some knowledge, meet my brothers and prepare for the future #SigEp

Rob Ingram @Boomerbert6 • Don't just do the best you can - be the best there is #CLChicago @officialsigep

Bryant Aguilon @BRYaguillon • What a great time at #CLChicago ! Met so many amazing SigEp brothers and learned so much. Definitely an unforgettable experience.

Ben Sterling @rbensterling • Recruitment is about to change big time for us. Learning so much. #CLAAntanta

Chad R. Mandala @ChadRMandala • "Boys will be boys" is not an acceptable justification for not living our values. Accountability knows no gender. #CLAAntanta

Chris Drew @cdrew14 • It's not a plan unless it's in writing. @officialsigep #CLAAntanta

Join the conversation at www.twitter.com/officialsigep



Red Door Notes

The red door on SigEp chapter houses started at Syracuse University in 1928. While not the only factor in a high-performing chapter, well-appointed chapter facilities establish the foundation for creating the right experience through efforts like the Balanced Man Program and Residential Learning Communities.

Tennessee alumni breathe new life into their old home

By TY LEE, Tennessee '04

Alumni architect **Dave Purser, Tennessee '03**, and I had the privilege of leading the design team responsible for the renovations to the 1960s structure which we resided in during our undergraduate days in architecture school.

"It was a very fulfilling and gratifying experience to be asked to work on this project," said Purser. "Many of my fondest memories of college and brotherhood can be traced back to living in the house."

It was also a special project because it was essentially the catalyst for Dave and me to launch an architectural practice together, which we had imagined and joked about many nights while sharing living quarters in room 10.

The redesigned center space was transformed from an unused room into a socialization hub. Activities such as foosball, studying, lounging and watch-

ing TV now take place at the center of the building throughout the entire day. The use of floor-to-ceiling glass creates a space that visually connects the brotherhood to the campus. Toward the south, panoramic views of the Tennessee River and cliffs provide a literal connection to the contextual landscape.

The chapter room was no longer a dedicated space in the house. Over the years, it had turned into a dilapidated storage room with clothes washing equipment. The design team set a priority to restore the chapter room as a space with the dedicated function of facilitating chapter meetings.

In 2008, the chapter house at Tennessee-Knoxville was condemned and rated unsafe for habitation by the state fire marshal. The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation (AVC) needed to



Clockwise from top: From left: Architect Ty Lee, '04, Former Chapter President Matt Yatsula, '12, Housing Committee Chairman Andrew Stallings, '66, Former AVC Treasurer Earl Rainwater, '60, and Project Manager David Purser, '03, were crucial to bringing the project to life. The living area provides comfortable seating and a soaring ceiling. Front and side views of the exterior show the majestic features of the entrance to the SigEp facility at Tennessee.



San Diego State upgrades facility to RLC standards

By **RON SMITH**, San Diego State '69

act quickly to either build a new facility or renovate the building to comply with public safety codes.

The AVC chose renovation. They enlisted the help of **Andy Stallings, Tennessee '66**, to chair the renovation committee and bring his experience as a project manager with nationally acclaimed Hines Construction to the project.

The architectural services for the renovation were given to **Henry Bledsoe, Tennessee Renaissance**, for whom Purser had gone to work after graduation. "I met Henry when I was an undergraduate at our chapter's annual alumni event and got some advice about architectural school," Purser said. "He spent several hours with me the next day discussing architecture school and the profession, and he agreed to let me be a summer intern. I went to work for Henry a little less than a month after graduation, and gained the best mentor and friend. Henry was a great teacher for those six years."

Unfortunately, Bledsoe passed away during the design phase of the renovations. Purser and I took over the architectural lead. We were very excited about the opportunity to enhance the life and activities of the brothers through good design.



With a formal ribbon cutting on October 29, 2011, the California Delta Residential Learning Community at San Diego State began a new era with a state-of-the-art living-learning environment. Even 10 years ago, the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation knew the venerable old chapter house would someday need major work. After all, the house had served California Delta brothers since the mid 1950s. Other additions and remodels had taken the old girl only so far.

Led by Capital Campaign Chairman, **Edward E. Dahlkamp, '63**, fundraising began in earnest in 2008, and alumni were quite generous. With

launched in April 2011.

The scope of work was designed to make the house energy efficient, fire safe and conducive to the learning environment worthy of the chapter's recent accreditation as a SigEp Residential Learning Community. Improvements include a faculty fellow and executive board office, a library and study area, a completely remodeled chapter room and an upstairs study landing.

Renovations also included a completely upgraded kitchen and large recreation room/classroom. The classroom now hosts the chapter's first ever university-offered leadership class, taught by Randy



The recently refurbished SigEp facility for the San Diego State Chapter creates a living-learning environment for this newly accredited Residential Learning Community.

wireless internet throughout.

During a year of temporary living arrangements, the chapter was challenged to stay focused and maintain morale. Under then-President **Davin Heaton, '12**, the men performed in an exemplary manner and continued to be a dominant force at San Diego State. When the chapter moved back into the newly renovated house, the positive energy generated

all of our chapter's goals and aspirations. Above all else, however, it will foster a brotherhood of balanced men."

University officials have noted that the house is now the premier Greek property at San Diego State.

The furnishings are coming along. The California Delta Mom's Club, under the leadership of Janice Williams, has played a key role in outfitting the kitchen. They have plans to stay involved until they get everything "just right."

This project was a culmination of effort by the AVC and the chapter members over 11 years. The AVC is indebted to all who have contributed money, time, energy and the many good ideas that led to the successful completion. The chapter has proven worthy with their stellar accomplishments over the years, and everyone looks forward to many more to come.



Past Chapter President Davin Heaton, '12, cuts the ribbon on San Diego State's new facility with the help of SigEp Regional Director Scott Swedberg, Elon '11.

\$500,000 pledged, Project Lead **Bob Trovaten, '67**, assembled the architect and contractor team to do the work. With architect designs and approved building plans in hand, the complete renovation

Timm, the Director of Student Life and Leadership. Other features include new wiring, new plumbing, HVAC, dual pane windows and doors, fire alarm and protection systems, modern insulation, tankless water heaters and

in the chapter was palpable. Chapter President **Barak Alon, '13**, said, "This new chapter house will serve as a beacon of what a Fraternity home should look like, an embodiment of the RLC ideal, and a headquarters for

"Above all else, it will foster a brotherhood of balanced men."

~ CHAPTER PRESIDENT
BARAK ALON, '13

Missouri S&T Chapter polishes its architectural gem

By MICHAEL KEARNEY, Missouri S&T '61

In 1970, Missouri-Rolla (now Missouri S&T) alumni **Leroy Thompson, '56**, and **Pete Hansen, '53**, built an 80-man house for the Missouri Gamma Chapter with no fundraising, a lot of luck and much prayer. Forty years later their bold work has been complimented and improved upon with a modern renovation, adding 3,000 square feet, a variable refrigerant multi-zone air conditioning system, full internet, cable and code compliance for 64 members plus a resident scholar suite.

The 1970 house is in Prairie Style architecture, largely credited to Frank Lloyd Wright, one of America's most innovative and famous architects. Wright's goal was to create organic architecture, an integration of structural and aesthetic beauty, and above all, sensitivity to human life.

The style features large roof overhangs, prominent horizontal design elements, and big, low masonry walls at ground level with a hedge to match. The reemphasis of this classic Midwestern design has made a great Fraternity chapter house of distinction.

Missouri Gamma designed the house to maximize educational space, which is eligible for tax-deductible fundraising. They used the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation for this portion of the \$3.2 million project

and gifts directly to the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation for the rest.

It was determined that 37 percent of the facility qualified as educational space. One of the keys in this analysis was separation of the member rooms into sleeping space and study space, separated by a wall and door. This arrangement gave two- and three-member suites the benefit that members could study or sleep, without being disturbed by the other suite occupants.



The arts and crafts style of the newly renovated facility at Missouri S&T is evident in both the common area wood and stonework features and the exterior design features such as bold columns and extended roof overhangs.

The food receiving, preparation and presentation process was improved by bringing the walk-in cooler and freezer to the first floor immediately adjacent to the delivery area. The food serving area was separated from the food preparation area and designed to serve as a weekend member access kitchen.

Perhaps the most delightful area of the house is Pati O'Hara, an al fresco dining area adjacent to the main dining room, for outside dining when weather permits. It was named for a major donor, **John O'Hara, '76**.

Many members helped to bring this project to fruition. **Michael Hurst, '74**, the former President and COO of McCarthy Building Companies, headed the project. **Larry Hendren, '73**, served as the design and construction team chairman. He is president of Engineering Surveys and Services. O'Hara, a principal of the Murray Company in St. Louis, Mo., was the design evaluator, and **Randy Ganz, '76**, president and CEO of DeWitt and Associates, served as construction coordinator.

Richmond Founders Walk dedication marks 110 years of excellence

By **CHARLOTTE STAPLES**, Executive Assistant, Real Estate Operations

In commemoration of 110 years of Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love, the University of Richmond dedicated the new Sigma Phi Epsilon Founders Walk on October 29, 2011. The rainy day could not dampen the excitement of reception attendees, including Mildred Cox Goode, daughter of founder, **Lucian Baum Cox, 1902**, the Virginia Alpha Chapter undergraduates, alumni, Headquarters staff, university staff and friends.

For decades the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, especially **Fletcher Stiers, '48**, and past Grand President **Archer L. Yeatts III, '64**, had talked with the university about a desire to memorialize the Fraternity's Founders somewhere on campus. Soon after University of Richmond President Dr. Edward L. Ayers' arrival in 2007, Stiers, Yeatts and Educational Foundation Executive Director **Doug Scheibe, Kansas State '87**, discussed the memorial concept with Ayers, and the seed was planted.

With the historian in him generating interest in the project, Ayers was instru-

mental in bringing this idea to fruition. Through many alumni contributions, the memorial became a reality.

The walkway memorializes SigEp's history at the university with a plaque listing all 12 Founders. The walkway not only beautifies the campus and provides a functional purpose, but it also serves as a conduit for connecting SigEp alumni to the university. The marker remembers the young men who had a vision, developed through friendship and shared interests.

During the dedication service, Yeatts referred to Sir Christopher Wren, responsible for rebuilding much of London following the Great Fire of 1666. "A plaque on Wren's grave says, 'Reader, if you seek his monument, look around you.'" Yeatts added, "If you would seek the monuments of our Founders, look around you. Look at every SigEp here. We are the living, breathing monuments to our Founders. May we all leave here today more proud than ever to be a SigEp and more determined than ever to live our lives in accordance with our cardinal principles of



The Sigma Phi Epsilon Founders Walk is prominently located on the University of Richmond campus. It honors the 12 Founders and serves as a memorial to the Fraternity's earliest days.

Virtue, Diligence and Brotherly Love."

Win Gouldin, '88, president of the Virginia Alpha Alumni and Volunteer Corporation, told the undergraduates, "Aside from initiation, this is truly my proudest moment as a SigEp."

President Ayers' long term vision is to develop a SigEp Founders Initiative, which would fund international study and internships. Adding this scholarly and outwardly-focused component to the tangible monument would provide a truly fitting tribute to Sigma Phi Epsilon. For more information, contact Win Gouldin at wingouldin@mac.com.

Syracuse Chapter completes much needed updates



Chef Pat Mahar (center) will be able to serve up better, healthier meals in the newly upgraded kitchen. He takes a rare break in the kitchen to pose with undergraduates and alumni who are pleased to have the renovations complete.

By **BRIAN SANDLER**, Syracuse '04

The SigEp chapter at Syracuse, which began the tradition of painting the front door of all SigEp houses red, left its original home in 1984 for a new chapter house. But 25 years later, the building had become tremendously worn down and outdated. The Alumni and Volunteer Corporation challenged the group

to improve itself in order to earn improvements to the house, and the brothers responded.

They nearly doubled their manpower into the 90s, while maintaining a GPA above 3.0. They won the university's Chapter of Excellence Award, among other accolades. They filled the house's live-in capacity of 44 for the

first time in almost 20 years. As a result, the building has undergone a facelift totaling more than \$180,000, including a repaved parking lot, new energy-efficient windows and new water heaters, as well as complete renovations to the bathrooms and kitchen. The latter two projects required much more than just money.

With so much labor needed for the bathroom and kitchen projects, a keen business sense in the involved industries was imperative to manage cost and pay for all needed repairs. Alumni and Volunteer Corporation President **Tom Cooney, North Carolina-Wilmington '97**, and Executive Outcomes Principal **Tom Hurlbutt** used business contacts and

solicited competitive pricing for the equipment and work, which allowed for new plumbing, fixtures, flooring, and walls in the bathrooms and new restaurant-grade appliances in the kitchen, including a reach-in refrigerator, stove, sandwich prep station, upgraded fire protection system and rolling tables.

"Designing the bathrooms and kitchen was a fun but lengthy process," said Cooney. "We did our due diligence on products that would be commercial-grade to endure hard usage but ensure a residential feeling. We have had very positive comments from students, alumni and parents."

The kitchen upgrades have

allowed house chef **Pat Mahar** not just to prepare food better, but to offer better food in keeping with SigEp's Sound Body practice.

"Many of today's brothers expect healthier foods, have diet restrictions or just want a good cheeseburger. Having a restaurant-grade kitchen allows me to meet the needs of everyone on a meal plan," said Mahar.

Some small projects still need to be completed; however, the house now serves as a better living space and a better recruiting advantage. The brotherhood is now focusing on its goal of earning the chapter's first Buchanan Cup since 1987.

Creating an academic culture

By **MICHAEL MCDOWELL**, Nevada-Reno '03

When you walk through the front door of a SigEp chapter house, the first thing you see can say a lot about what that chapter culture values. At the Nevada-Reno chapter house, the first thing you would see is a three-foot-tall honor roll, highlighting the 64 members who earned a GPA of 3.0 or above.

"Everyone wants to be on that list," said Nevada Alpha Chapter President **Topher Cuellar**, '13. "Everyone wants to show that they're helping their Fraternity brothers in our goal for academic success."

The chapter is one of many in SigEp that are taking steps to create a Fraternity culture that values academics. Many elements factor into developing a chapter that takes academics seriously. Montana State Chapter President **James Pallardy**, '14, helped his chapter bring its GPA up to a 3.46.

Pallardy explained, "We aimed at three things: making the house conducive to studying, providing brothers with the resources they need to succeed and rewarding those brothers who were helping us reach our academic goals."

The Montana Beta Chapter created an environment that had quiet study space and a program for monitoring success and progress throughout the semester. Driven largely by live-in Faculty Fellow **Dr. Brian Kassar**, Montana State Renaissance, the chapter puts academic resources at every member's fingertips.



The Nevada-Reno Chapter created teams of four brothers with a range of GPAs to help each other stay on track. From left: Alexander Montague, '12, Andrew Childress, '14, and Kevin Langley, '13, take time to discuss assignments. Brothers who top a 3.0 make the chapter's own honor roll.

Kassar works with each member to develop an individual academic plan and is readily available for those who would like more assistance in continually developing their plan. The chapter also started the High 5 program, named for their 3.5 GPA goal, to recognize brothers for academic excellence.

Brothers publicly recognize each other for any academic success, including getting an A on quizzes and tests, studying at the house, creating an academic plan, improving study skills and even hosting classes in the house. The program encourages a chapter culture that is conducive to academic excellence. It also gives brothers the recognition they deserve and rewards positive actions.

Both the Nevada-Reno and the Montana State chapters developed programs that facilitated mentorship and connection with other brothers. The Montana State Chapter regularly creates a "class help" list in which every member

lists the class he can help with and the class he needs help with for the semester. This gives everyone an opportunity to both help and ask for help.

The Nevada-Reno Chapter groups brothers to improve academic accountability. They create teams

of four brothers, consisting of one brother from each quartile of GPAs so that teams are evenly distributed. The goal is for the brothers to hold each other accountable and assist each other with staying on track. They have also put a new twist on study hours after finding that general study hours were unproductive. Rather than large groups of brothers studying in one space, team captains organize study groups for each major. This way, study groups consist of brothers who have experience and knowledge with the course material the brothers need to study. In addition, these groups strengthen relationships among younger and older members.

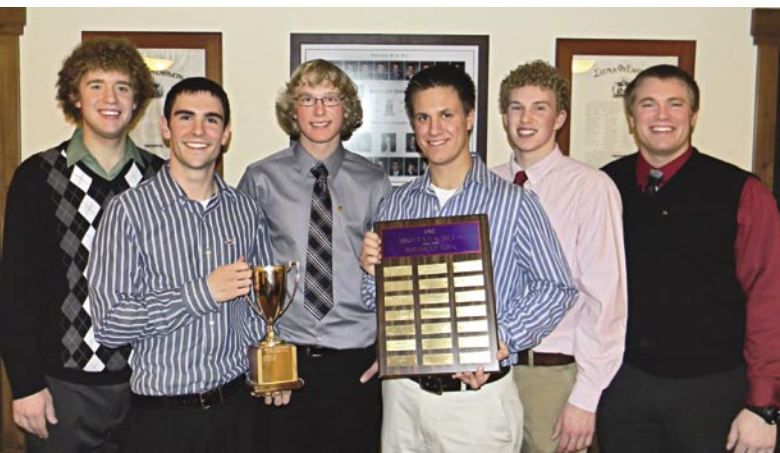
Cuellar and Pallardy emphasize that in order to be successful, a chapter must

- set goals,
- develop programs and incentives, and
- hold brothers accountable for their commitments.

Doing only one of these techniques will not equal success. If chapters can bring these all together and hold one another accountable for achieving results, however, they can expect their culture to change and their GPA to rise.

"Great minds discuss ideas. Average minds discuss events. Small minds discuss people."

~ ELEANOR ROOSEVELT



These Montana State members earned a 4.0 GPA in the fall '11 and a spot on the chapter's highest GPA plaque. From left: Matt Sherick, '14, James Pallardy, '14, Aaron Wipf, '15, Chris White, '14, Daigen Afdahl, '15, and Pat Tate, '14, help the whole chapter prioritize academics.

Academic accountability: Are you doing your part?

By TYLER BOGGESS, Drake '10, Chapter Services Director

SigEp members are students first at an institution of higher learning. SigEp has one of the highest national GPAs of any fraternity because so many chapters treat academics as paramount. And great GPAs have to be earned one member at a time.

In addition to high recruitment standards, two things ensure high academic achievement: academic support for individuals and a clear process of accountability with the standards board. The latter, holding brothers accountable, can be a touchy subject. No one enjoys playing the "bad guy" who calls out a brother for poor academic performance, or anything else. Often we shy away from this part of our jobs

as Fraternity men.

However, the consequences of avoiding this responsibility are high. Sigma Phi Epsilon's minimum academic standard is a 2.6 GPA. Any number of circumstances can cause a brother to fall below that standard, and the chapter should make every effort to help brothers rise to their academic potential. When those efforts fail, the chapter needs to consider their obligation to hold brothers accountable through the standards board.

How does this action align with the Ritual, and every SigEp's commitment to our third cardinal principle of brotherly love? Indeed, the Ritual charges us to always help a brother in need, which is why an academic standards process is so

important. We do our brothers no favors when we allow them to fail academically. If a brother cannot succeed in his studies and be a SigEp at the same time, we must help him focus on that which is more important—his studies.

Removing a brother is not easy, yet sometimes it is necessary. Consider what happens to an employee in the workforce. If an employee fails to meet minimum expectations, barring extenuating circumstances, he is warned and then let go. It should be no different in SigEp if we want to remain the smartest Fraternity.

So let us hold our high standards, for it not only improves our Fraternity but allows our individual members the opportunity to succeed.



Check out the Dubach Dean's list online



The
Spring
2011
Dubach
Dean's
list of

all 115 SigEp chapters with a GPA above the all-campus average is available online at www.sigep.org/academics/dubach.html. This listing is shared through the Sound Bite, our undergraduate e-newsletter.



SigEp's GPA Top 25

SigEp honors these top 25 schools that have established a high bar for academic achievement for spring 2011. Congratulate them and emulate them!

RANK	SCHOOL	SPRING '11 GPA	MANPOWER
1	<i>Alabama</i>	3.69	55
2	Yale	3.67	108
3	Stanford	3.63	40
4	Georgetown	3.58	74
5	Columbia	3.56	66
6	Dartmouth	3.50	96
7	Chicago	3.50	45
8	Washington in St. Louis	3.49	101
9	Northwestern	3.46	75
10	Case Western Reserve*	3.46	73
11	William & Mary	3.46	10
12	NYU	3.46	49
13	Southern Methodist*	3.45	124
14	Ohio State*	3.45	139
15	Cornell	3.45	68
16	Washington	3.44	78
17	Nebraska-Kearney	3.44	69
18	Maine*	3.44	61
19	Duke	3.43	68
20	Stevens Tech*	3.42	96
21	Pennsylvania	3.41	44
22	Georgia*	3.41	107
23	Cincinnati*	3.40	110
24	Lambuth*	3.40	10
25	American	3.39	70

*RLCs are designated by an asterisk. SEC chapters are in italics.

27 exceed all-campus average by .25 or more

CHAPTER	SPRING '11 GPA	ACA	ABOVE ACA	2011 MANPOWER
1 Memphis*	3.27	2.56	0.71	62
2 <i>Alabama</i>	3.69	3.09	0.60	55
3 Maine*	3.44	2.88	0.56	61
4 Nebraska - Kearney	3.44	2.89	0.55	69
5 Cincinnati*	3.40	2.98	0.42	110
6 Murray State	3.23	2.82	0.41	73
7 Arkansas Tech	3.18	2.78	0.40	49
8 Montana State*	3.38	3.01	0.37	33
9 Texas Christian*	3.27	2.91	0.36	140
10 Toledo*	3.17	2.81	0.36	102
11 California-Riverside	3.10	2.74	0.36	43
12 San Diego State*	3.17	2.82	0.35	154
13 Barton	3.17	2.84	0.33	25
14 Southern Mississippi	2.93	2.60	0.33	21
15 Ohio State*	3.45	3.13	0.32	139
16 South Dakota State	3.38	3.06	0.32	37
17 Georgia Southern	3.04	2.72	0.32	29
18 Florida State	3.38	3.07	0.31	52
19 Oklahoma State*	3.17	2.86	0.31	110
20 Wichita State	3.18	2.88	0.30	48
21 Louisiana State	3.20	2.91	0.29	167
22 Jacksonville State	2.76	2.48	0.28	32
23 Oregon State*	3.23	2.96	0.27	105
24 Southern Methodist*	3.45	3.19	0.26	124
25 American	3.39	3.13	0.26	70
26 Central Arkansas	3.02	2.76	0.26	88
27 Colorado State	2.99	2.74	0.25	84

**Doing
the math,
SPRING
2011***

3.11 All-
Member GPA
(231 chapters
reporting)

3.22 All-RLC
Member GPA (46
chapters reporting)

3.14 All-BMP
Member GPA (190
chapters reporting)

2.98 All-
Pledging Model
Member GPA (41
chapters reporting)

58 of 194
Chapters reporting
are #1 on campus

13 Chapters are
below 2.6

115 of 191
Chapters reporting
all-campus average
were above it

* All GPAs are to the nearest hundredth of a point

Top 5

chapters in each SigEp region

Starting in the Spring 2011 *Journal*, SigEp began recognizing every chapter that achieves a GPA above their all-campus average. This aligns with our strategic plan, which calls for every chapter to be above this benchmark. For the Spring 2011 semester, 115 of 191 chapters reporting hit this mark.

Chapters are grouped based on their region of the country. The top five chapters in each region, ranked based on how much they exceed their ACA, are listed here.

The complete Dubach Dean's List of chapters above their ACA is available online at www.sigep.org/academics/dubach.html.

All data reflects the Spring 2011 semester.

Region 1

5 of 9 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.21

REGION ONE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Maine*	3.44	.56	1/16	61
Rhode Island	2.97	.14	1/12	28
Dartmouth	3.50	.05	3/15	96
Clarkson	2.91	.04	N/A	44
Massachusetts	3.10	.03	2/13	80

Region 2

7 of 18 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.14

REGION TWO CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Carnegie Mellon*	3.34	.14	1/10	79
Drexel*	3.25	.07	1/11	77
West Chester	3.15	.07	N/A	53
Delaware	3.20	.06	5/18	75
Maryland- College Park*	3.21	.06	4/11	84

Region 3

9 of 18 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.09

REGION THREE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Barton	3.17	.33	1/3	25
American	3.39	.26	3/12	70
William & Mary	3.46	.20	1/20	10
North Carolina State	3.16	.16	1/22	62
Christopher Newport	3.11	.16	2/5	66

Region 4

13 of 20 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.12

REGION FOUR CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Alabama	3.69	.60	1/27	55
Georgia Southern	3.04	.32	2/14	29
Florida State	3.38	.31	1/23	52
Jacksonville State	2.76	.28	2/6	32
South Florida*	3.08	.20	2/13	89

Region 5

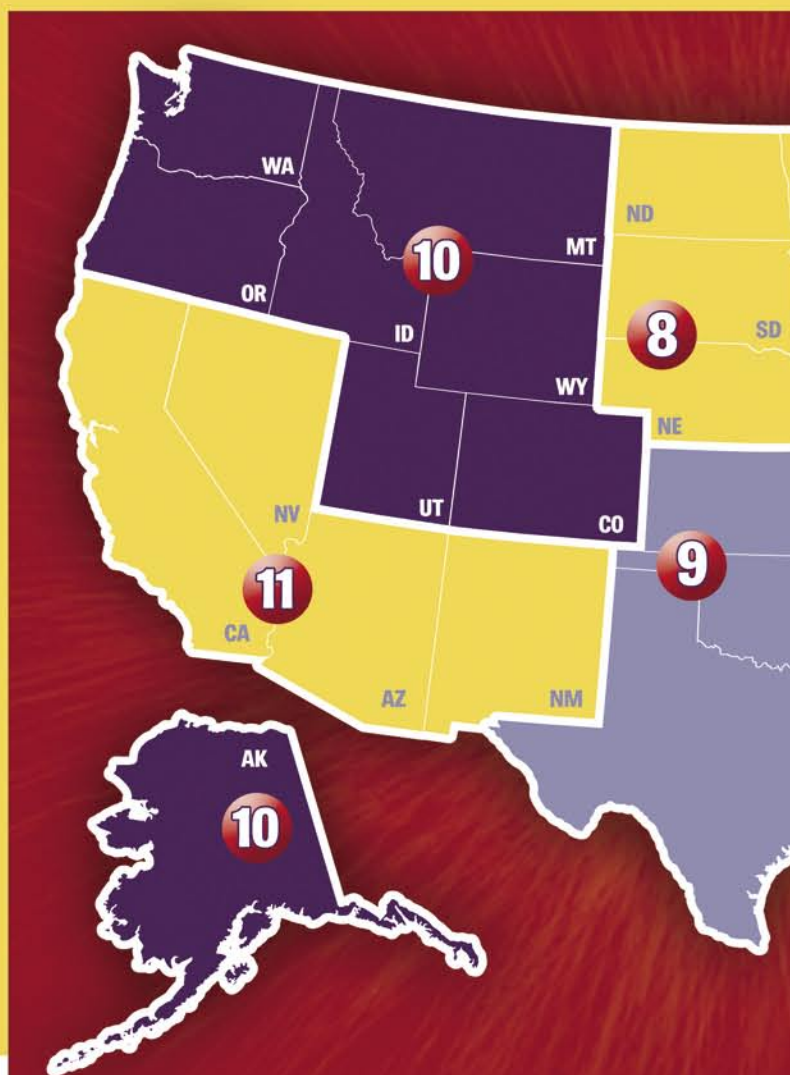
13 of 20 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 3.15

REGION FIVE CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Cincinnati*	3.40	.42	1/18	110
Toledo*	3.17	.36	1/10	102
Ohio State*	3.45	.32	1/31	139
Lawrence Tech*	3.00	.20	N/A	60
Dayton	3.04	.19	3/10	73

Region 6

13 of 20 schools
above ACA, Region
GPA of 2.98

REGION SIX CHAPTERS	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN- POWER
Memphis*	3.27	.71	1/11	62
Murray State	3.23	.41	1/11	73
Arkansas Tech	3.18	.40	3/5	49
Southern Mississippi	2.93	.33	N/A	21
Louisiana State	3.20	.29	1/22	167



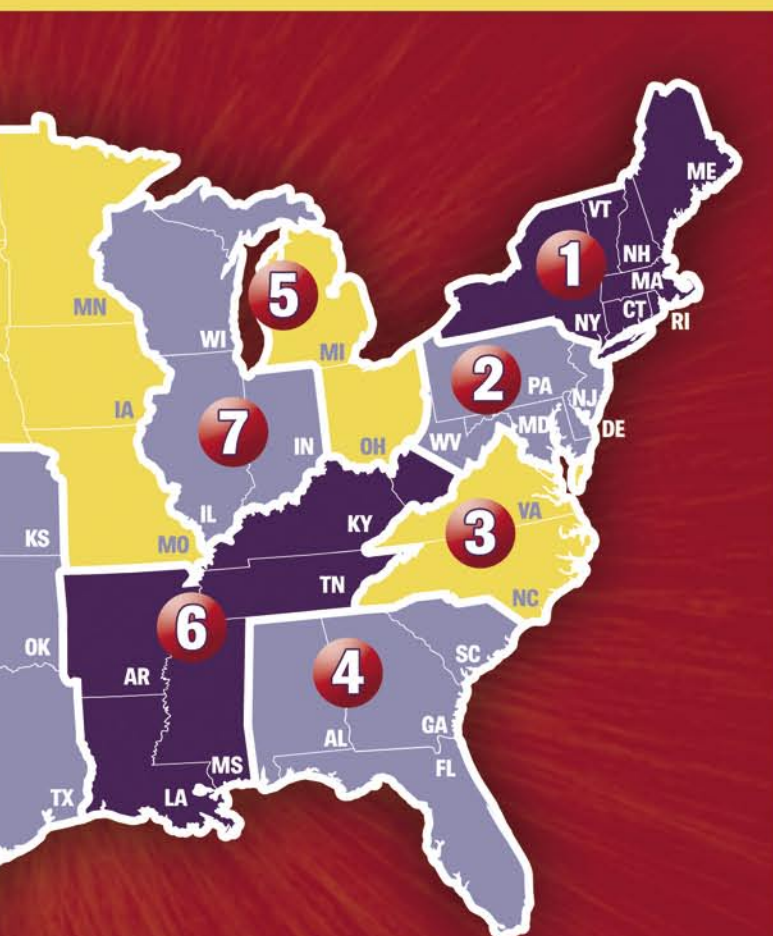
Athletic

Conference breakdown

This graph pits different athletic conferences against each other. It displays which conferences are contributing the strongest grades and highest manpower across the country. We also recognize the school in each conference that has the highest overall GPA and which is highest above their ACA.

Many schools have switched athletic conferences over the last year. These groupings are based on the 2010-2011 college basketball season to be consistent with the Fall 2011 *Journal*.

Conference	# of Schools	Conference GPA	Total Manpower	Highest above ACA	Highest GPA
Ivy	5	3.54	382	Dartmouth	Yale
University Athletic	7	3.42	426	Carnegie Mellon* and Case Western Reserve* (tied)	Washington in St. Louis
Patriot League	3	3.27	230	American	American
Conference USA	5	3.24	333	Memphis*	Southern Methodist*
ACC	10	3.23	645	Florida State	Duke
Big Ten	10	3.22	1,064	Ohio State*	Northwestern
Pacific 12	9	3.22	711	Oregon State*	Stanford
Big East	11	3.16	673	Cincinnati*	Georgetown
Atlantic 10	7	3.13	417	Dayton	George Washington
Mountain West	5	3.10	495	San Diego State* and Texas Christian* (tied)	Texas Christian*
Missouri Valley	9	3.09	536	Wichita State	Drake* and Creighton (tied)
Big 12	12	3.07	1,302	Oklahoma State*	Texas
SEC	9	3.05	943	Alabama	Alabama
Southern	4	3.05	209	Georgia Southern	Elon*
Colonial	8	3.04	460	William and Mary	William and Mary
Ohio Valley	7	3.04	414	Murray State	Murray State
Mid-American	6	3.03	418	Toledo*	Toledo*
Big Sky	4	2.98	157	Montana State*	Montana State*
Big West	6	2.97	375	California – Riverside	California – Santa Barbara
Sun Belt	4	2.83	200	Florida International	Florida International
Southland	5	2.82	252	Central Arkansas	Central Arkansas



REGION SEVEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Illinois*	3.34	.24	3/45	156
Monmouth*	3.08	.21	1/4	30
Michigan Tech	3.11	.19	N/A	46
Indiana *	3.31	.18	3/39	116
SIU-Edwardsville	3.00	.16	N/A	64

Region 7

9 of 19 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.08

REGION EIGHT CHAPTERS

	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Nebraska-Kearney	3.44	.55	2/7	69
South Dakota State	3.38	.32	1/6	37
Nebraska*	3.23	.24	5/24	129
Nebraska-Omaha	3.08	.21	1/4	41
North Dakota*	3.23	.21	1/13	44

Region 8

16 of 21 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.16

REGION NINE CHAPTERS

	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Texas Christian*	3.27	.36	2/10	140
Oklahoma State*	3.17	.31	5/20	110
Wichita State	3.18	.30	2/11	48
Southern Methodist*	3.45	.26	1/9	124
Washburn*	3.26	.23	2/5	31

Region 9

11 of 16 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.07

REGION TEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
Montana State*	3.38	.37	1/5	33
Oregon State*	3.23	.27	2/20	105
Colorado State	2.99	.25	4/20	84
Montana	3.17	.23	1/6	21
Washington	3.44	.22	1/32	78

Region 10

8 of 10 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.06

REGION ELEVEN CHAPTERS

	GPA	ABOVE ACA	RANK ON CAMPUS	MAN-POWER
California-Riverside	3.10	.36	1/7	43
San Diego State*	3.17	.35	1/12	154
Nevada-Reno	3.04	.19	2/10	97
Cal State-Fresno	3.09	.18	1/14	59
Cal State-Northridge	2.90	.18	5/13	48

Region 11

14 of 18 schools above ACA, Region GPA of 3.11

*Indicates Residential Learning Community
Italics indicates Sigma Epsilon Chapter



Check out varsity athletes online

A list of SigEp varsity athletes is now online for your review. This listing is shared through the Sound Bite, our undergraduate e-newsletter. Check out the varsity athletes at chapters across the nation at www.sigep.org/varsityathletes.

From competitor to coach: Swimmer turns his sport into his profession

By JAY LANGHAMMER

The youngest head coach in NCAA Division I swimming is Elliott McGill, Eastern Illinois '09, who was named interim head coach of both men's and women's swimming teams at his alma mater in June 2011. After a stellar career on the Eastern Illinois swim team (2006-09), he served as a graduate assistant in 2010-11, providing technical instruction to Panther swimmers, and developed a weight

"I learned a lot from my four former coaches and feel very lucky to now be able to create my own program with strong influences from them," McGill said. "My coaching style is more of a teaching style than anything else. I believe that swimming technique is the basis for everything. In my opinion, that aspect of the sport is taught to an athlete, not coached."

As an undergraduate, McGill



Elliott McGill, Eastern Illinois '09, went from swimmer to swim coach.

honors. He was very involved in Fraternity activities, serving two years on the Junior Greek Council, helping with Homecoming plans one year, plus participat-

biggest thing SigEp taught me was time management. Being able to manage family, friends and work is difficult as a head coach. The Fraternity prepared me to properly prioritize my time

than the time commitment SigEp asks of its men."

Since graduating in 2009, McGill has kept in touch with a number of brothers. "We are all beginning our professional careers and some are starting families," he said. "So it is difficult to be as close as you once were. But what brought us together is still there, so when you do talk or see each other, there is not a lot of time lost."

A prominent member of his men's swimming team is his real life and SigEp Brother Colin McGill, '13, who earned All-Summit League honors in the 100 meter backstroke last season.



"Being able to manage family, friends and work is difficult as a head coach. The Fraternity prepared me to properly prioritize my time and maintain strong relationships in all three areas." ~ MCGILL

training and dry land program. He also conducted day-to-day practices, worked on a master's degree in sports administration and helped recruit new student-athletes now on this season's rosters.

swam the individual medley, backstroke and sprint freestyle. He was an All-Summit League selection as a junior on the 200 freestyle relay that set a school record best time. He also earned Academic All-Summit League

ing in Greek Sing, Collegiate Bowl and Airband teams during Greek Week.

McGill added, "Being a SigEp helped make me mature enough to go into the professional world fully prepared. The

and maintain strong relationships in all three areas. I think it is equally important to help my swimmers develop those balancing skills as their time commitment to the sport is far greater

Christopher Newport pitcher follows in grandfather's footsteps

By **BRIAN SHAWN**, North Dakota '02

When Matt Verdillo, Christopher Newport '13, takes the mound in pressure situations, he always seems to stay cool. Verdillo is one of the top relief pitchers for the Captains varsity baseball team, and one member of his family has certainly helped him develop his talents. Verdillo's grandfather pitched growing up as well and was eventually drafted by the New York Yankees. "He was always a level-headed, easy-going guy so I guess he taught me the importance of keeping my composure and having fun with the game, since I can't play it forever," Verdillo explained.

Verdillo truly enjoys his position on the team. "It's been awesome to be a relief pitcher because I've been able to lock down a lot of wins for us late in games," Verdillo said. "On top of that, it helps me stay disciplined and looking good."

During last season's conference tournament, Verdillo pitched twice against Shenandoah University, which was ranked first in the nation while his team

was second. "With some perseverance, I was able to hold them to four total scoreless innings in the two games, which was enough to earn me one of the all-tournament pitcher awards," he said.

Verdillo is also a stand-out student-athlete at CNU, maintaining a 3.26 GPA while pursuing a double-major in communications and Spanish, with minors in civic engagement and social entrepreneurship.

"Staying diligent has been the key for me in juggling everything," Verdillo added. "I've found that taking everything day-by-day allows me to accomplish everything I need to."

Despite all the demands of academics and athletics, Verdillo decided to join Sigma Phi Epsilon. He admits it's not always easy to find time for Fraternity activities and events, but sees the value in remaining a part of the chapter.

"I realized that the strong brotherhood centered around the cardinal principles would really push me to become a better



Matt Verdillo, Christopher Newport '13, winds up for the pitch for the Captains.

man," Verdillo said. "Staying committed to the cardinal principles helps me balance my busy, demanding college life."

Verdillo seems to not only be successful locking down wins for Christopher Newport's baseball team, but locking down a bright future as well.

Cincinnati SigEp leaps over hurdles on the track and in the classroom

By **BRIAN SHAWN**, North Dakota '02

Brandon Cook, Cincinnati '15, has plenty of academic hurdles to overcome at Cincinnati, but leaping over hurdles is nothing new for him. Cook is a member of the Bearcat varsity track and field team, where he participates in both the 110 meter and 400 meter hurdles. It's a relatively difficult event that requires speed and technique, but Cook thrives on the challenge.

"There's a lot more to it than just running," Cook said. "You have to continuously work on improving technique through repetition and film study."

Cook has excelled off the track as well. He is in the Accelerated Engineering Degree (ACCEND) Program in aerospace engineering. In the ACCEND program, he is simultaneously attaining his



Brandon Cook, center, waits for the starting gun at a recent 110 meter hurdle race for his team at Cincinnati.

bachelors and masters degrees in aerospace in the same five-year program, while still participating in the co-op program. While in the second year of the program, he has already completed three years of his

undergraduate classes. Despite all the demands on his time, he currently holds an impressive 3.99 GPA.

"I have greatly improved on my time management

skills in college thus far, making it easier to balance things," Cook added. "I try my best to split up my time evenly and be flexible with my schedule."

Cook joined the Ohio Theta Chapter his freshman year, and although it's difficult to stay involved at times, he serves as community service chair and is enjoying his time in the Fraternity. The chapter has been a

perennial Buchanan Cup recipient, and Cook sees the value in his relationships with fellow brothers.

"I love everything about SigEp," Cook said. "It's nice being a part of a great group of guys who all want the same thing: to better themselves."

Cook still has some difficult challenges to overcome, but is making those tough leaps look pretty easy so far.

Chapter News

Two chapters adopt Balanced Man Program

By **MITCH GOLDICH**, Lehigh '09, Communications Manager

More than 20 years ago, SigEp's Committee on Self-Esteem sought to build a monumental paradigm shift within the fraternity world, redefining norms and instilling higher standards of performance for all members.

The committee launched the Balanced Man Project to combat issues that plagued the entire Greek community. These issues included alcohol and drug abuse, little involvement of older members, poor campus and community involvement, and a limited focus on leadership, goal-setting, mentoring and respect for self and others.

The most well known result of this initiative was the Balanced Man Program (BMP) development model. Today more than 200 chapters nationwide operate under this model. It has raised the bar for what a fraternity experience can look like—recruiting high-quality members year-round, committing them to the lifetime responsibility of brotherhood, offering personal and career development, and preparing the next generation of SigEps to enact change in the world.

Making the switch

Recently, Coastal Carolina and Southern Mississippi saw themselves mired in similar circumstances that plagued many chapters in the early 1990s. Members joined for the wrong reasons, upperclassmen weren't involved in the chapter and grades were suffering. Each chapter dared to be different from the common perception of fraternity life on campus and adopted the program because it's a proven way to improve chapter performance.



Southern Mississippi chapter members enjoy a tailgate event with President Emeritus of the university, Dr. Aubrey K. Lucas, Southern Mississippi '54.



Following a chapter dinner, Dr. Frances Lucas, vice president and campus executive officer at Southern Mississippi, inspired members to aim high with her remarks called, "The Six Steps to Being a Great SigEp."

Coastal Carolina was struggling with manpower and retention, and knew operating the Balanced Man Program was a proactive way to improve both. Southern Mississippi had its charter revoked, until a successful appeal at last spring's National Board of Directors meeting. The chapter leaders decided that switching to the Balanced Man Program would provide a template to help them overcome the many obstacles in front of them.

Recruiting and retaining with the BMP

Southern Mississippi Chapter President **John Barr**, '12, said that his chapter has done well using the Balanced Man Program in recruitment. "It actually makes recruitment easier because we have this program that's very explicit in what exactly it is. Breaking down the four development stages almost like freshman, sophomore, junior and senior years made it easier to understand and explain to potential new members. It really

intrigued people because we were offering something different from all the other chapters."

Former Coastal Carolina Chapter President **Bryce Spiegel**, '12, said that having a Sigma Challenge makes it easier to recruit year-round. "We used to just do formal recruitment in the beginning of the semester, but we've been having recruitment nights, like info sessions or going out for pizza."

Each president also said the Balanced Man Program helped them retain and engage their members once they had joined.

Barr said that watching the chapter's new members going through the Sigma Challenge has been an eye-opener. "You can see the benefits of the program in action right now," he said. "We have 100 percent retention. Within the first two

Both chapters have seen short-term success with their new programs, but recognize it will take sustained effort to offer the premier student experience on campus.



Coastal Carolina brothers wore their letters to promote SigEp now that they are establishing a stronger presence on campus.

weeks [after formal recruitment], and just about every chapter had lost a member except for us. We've done well with retaining, and we're keeping our promises that we made during recruitment."

Upperclassmen involvement

Speigel said that a group of seniors were key advocates for the change because they wanted to make a lasting impact on the chapter before graduating. "We wanted to up our standards," he explained. So the chapter held a vote and decided it was time for a change. All eight of those seniors are now working to complete the Epsilon Challenge, which enables them to mentor younger members, set a good example and have a compelling reason to remain involved in the Fraternity.

Focusing on continuous development has forced the chapter to work harder to plan programming that will be beneficial to older members in the chapter. "We had a resume workshop last week, and that went very well. We have a dress for success seminar coming up too. If we didn't have the BMP, we wouldn't have set either of these up," Speigel said.

While all SigEp chapters can and should offer similar programming tailored toward their older members, the BMP offers guidelines to ensure upperclassmen will be prepared for the world after college, and advancing on to the Brother Mentor Rite of Passage is a powerful incentive for them to remain committed.

Continually looking to improve

Both chapters know it will take sustained effort to offer the premier student experience on campus, but are excited about short-term success with their new programs.

"There has been a whole lot of improvement, and a good attitude and a good environment since we made the change," Barr said. "I just see it getting better from here on out."

James Madison brothers offer hope to small town

By INGRID SMITH

The town once referred to as "Little New York City" because of its booming population due to coal mining now stands abandoned and gray. The town of Welch's poverty is reflected in every empty store window and every bit of debris left from a burnt-down apartment building.

Welch, W.Va., was a successful city for the first half of the 20th century, thanks to the coal in the beautiful West Virginia mountains. However, after World War II, oil began to supplant the abundant use of coal. Mechanization of mining also reduced the need for many laborers. Job loss took its toll on the population. Recently, two floods have been the greatest challenges, driving locals to move rather than to start all over again.

The brothers of the James Madison Sigma Epsilon Chapter became invested in the well-being of this town four years ago. Through an organization called Aid for The World, the chapter decided to make a difference close to home. They planned their first trip in fall 2009. That week, they gave up their own Thanksgiving dinners and touch football games to serve 400 turkey dinners to the members of the Welch community.



James Madison students have taken a week-long trip since 2009 to help a needy community in West Virginia. Above: Brothers pose after putting on a play for the city. Below, Craig Cravath, '12 and James Brockmeyer, '12, helped set up a bed in one house.



"As a group of college kids, we saw the simple impact of a turkey dinner or a fresh coat of paint on a house," said **Craig Cravath, James Madison '12**, one of the trip's key organizers. "With the help from our liaison to the community, Nathan Plowman, who not only became our friend but a great role model for our brotherhood, we planned a second trip for our upcoming winter break. Since 2009, we have been back every winter to help in any way we can."

While SigEp has organized the trip

every year, there is no way the chapter could have done it alone. Nine James Madison sororities also participate. Roughly 40 students go every year, not only giving up a week at home with families, but funding the trip themselves at about \$190 each. That covers transportation, food, lodging and supplies. Any leftover money is donated to several non-profits working in the area.

College students often travel abroad to help the less fortunate, but the poverty in our own backyard is a pressing issue. Welch, W.Va., is a four-hour drive from James Madison. After each trip, participants leave sore and tired, but more grateful for what they have. They leave hope behind that not all is lost, that there is a way to rebuild and that happy moments can be found in bad situations. They are 40 college students making a difference every year. Painting walls and playing with kids are part of it, but the hope left behind is the biggest contribution for this community.

Ingrid Smith, a James Madison student and member of Delta Delta, was a group leader on this year's trip.

"As a group of college kids, we saw the simple impact of a turkey dinner or a fresh coat of paint on a house."

~ CRAIG CRAVATH, JAMES MADISON '12

Baylor obtains charter

By **MATTHEW RINDT**, Baylor '12

After years of hard work, the SigEp chapter at Baylor celebrated its chartering with a banquet on January 28. Texas Rho learned its chartering petition had been approved this past summer at Conclave, and held a celebration to receive the charter in Waco, Texas. With this benchmark complete, the chapter eagerly expects to increase its campus reach, establish a new campus-wide softball philanthropy event and improve alumni relations. The chapter's goals are set with an eye toward becoming a premier Fraternity not only on the Baylor campus, but across the nation as well.

Fifty undergraduates, 20 alumni and guests attended the banquet. Notable guests included chapter advisor Jeremy McElroy, National Director **Daniel McVeigh**, Texas Wesleyan '90, Executive Director **Brian Warren**, Virginia '04, Regional Director **Kyle Nelson**, Washington State '11, and current district governors **Bill Patten**, Texas Christian '73, and **Chad Carlson**, Baylor '95.

"The charter banquet was just the icing on the cake to all the hard work that was put into receiving our charter," said Vice President of Programming **John Andres**, '13.

"I thought the banquet was fantastic," said **Walker Hanson**, '08. "The current undergraduates put together an excellent event, which allowed national SigEp representatives and the alumni of Texas Rho to show their support and to join the chapter as it celebrated the milestone of the re-chartering of Sigma Phi Epsilon at Baylor."

Under this new directive, the chapter stresses leadership, values and building men throughout their four undergraduate years to prepare them for the real world.



The chapter was initially chartered at Baylor in 1976 and lost its charter in 2005. The chapter returned to Baylor's campus in 2007 under the Balanced Man Program. Focusing on Sound Mind and Sound Body, Texas Rho has grown rapidly over the past three years. Under this new directive, the chapter stresses leadership, values and building men throughout their four undergraduate years to prepare them for the real world.

In the early years, the chapter's brothers became close friends with Mr. and Mrs. Berry Winn, and during the next four decades, the chapter helped take care of their ranch. In 1989, for its dedi-

cated service to the Winn Family, Texas Rho became the first chapter to receive the Honor of Philias award. The Winns hold a special place in the chapter's collective hearts, even after they have both passed away.

In 2003, the chapter lost **Lt. Colonel Kim Orlando**, '82, during the Iraq War. Some of Orlando's pledge brothers, led by **Charlie Gamble**, '82, began to raise money in his name for the Fisher House Organization. Today, the undergraduate brothers join their alumni in the Annual Kim Orlando Golf Invitational in order to help raise money for this cause. Last year, 44 attendees at the tournament raised \$2,500, donated to the Fisher House Organization (which has now raised over \$23,000).

New Hampshire brother is a life-saving perfect match...twice!

By TYLER MANOUKIAN, Massachusetts '13

If Erik Poulin, New Hampshire '13, hadn't joined Sigma Phi Epsilon, he might never have gotten the chance to save another person's life.

Poulin, a civil engineering major, joined the nation's largest bone marrow registry after volunteering for a local bone marrow drive on campus with his fellow SigEp compatriots last May. A few weeks later, he learned he was a match for one person in need. Unfortunately, further testing revealed that the intended recipient would not be ready for the transplant, but didn't rule out the possibility of a future transplant. Six months later, he got another chance.

Last October, Poulin received a phone call that put him in elite company as a rare match for two people in need of a bone marrow transplant. The registry informed him that he was a match once more—this time for a cancer patient.

The odds of being a donor match once are one in 20,000 because the tissue type between donor

and patient needs to be nearly identical. The odds of being a match twice? An astonishing *one in 400 million*.

"I never thought in a million years I would get called," Poulin said. "I didn't think that I would be put in a position to save someone's life."

Poulin donated his marrow to a 65-year-old leukemia patient last November. He underwent the Peripheral Blood Stem Cell Donation (PBSC), which is a nonsurgical procedure that takes place at an outpatient hospital unit. For five days leading up to donation, he was given injections of a drug called *filgrastim* to increase the number of blood-forming cells in his bloodstream.

The procedure removes the donor's blood through a needle in one arm and passes it through a machine that separates out the blood-forming cells. The remaining blood is then returned through the donor's other arm.

The side effects of the transplant process are bone pain and nausea, which typically occur for about a week following the



From left: Rob Almquist, '11, George Haydock, '13, Jon Hassell, '12, Erik Poulin, '13, and Greg Gainty, '12, pile up on the couch in their apartment in Durham, N.H. Poulin made a few new friends when he agreed to donate his bone marrow after a match was found.

transplant. Poulin compared the side effects of the procedure to having the flu for a week.

But why go through a painful six-hour surgery for someone he barely knows? "The fact is that someone getting a match is like winning the lottery," Poulin said. "So for me to say no [to a patient] would be, basically telling them they have no chance."

"Looking back on the process, I would do it all over again

in a second," he said. "Despite the discomfort and pain it caused me, the benefits outweighed the pain a million times over."

"Anyone can make a difference," Poulin said. "I was given the chance to help two people in a big way."

He said the procedure was one of the best decisions he has ever made in his life. He added that if it wasn't for SigEp's dedica-

tion to community service, he would have missed the opportunity.

Poulin challenges everyone to take advantage of opportunities like this with one simple message, "You have the chance to make a huge positive impact on someone's life. Don't let it slip through your fingers if the chance comes along."

"Anyone can make a difference. I was given the chance to help two people in a big way."

~ERIK POULIN,
NEW HAMPSHIRE '13



For information on how to become a

bone marrow donor, you can visit: www.GetSwabbed.org.

Undergraduate launches business to sustain an orphanage in Africa

By **PETER WILSON**, Chicago '10

Service trips were a summer tradition for **Benjamin Prinz, Chicago '14**. Prinz taught at the St. Mary Kevin Orphanage and Primary School (SMK) in Kajjansi, Uganda in high school. He fostered genuine friendships with those he met and returned to the orphanage in 2010. Prinz was disheartened to find the place he had fallen in love with ensnared in financial crisis. The orphanage was fully dependent on outside organizations that had competing visions for its future and fluctuating donations. Upon his return to the U.S., one of his mentors challenged him to do something about it. And so he did.

Prinz was disheartened to find the place he had fallen in love with ensnared in a financial crisis.

Prinz realized the orphanage needed a plan to become self-sufficient, so he enlisted the help of his brother, Philipp, and his mentor Eduardo Browne, an experienced businessman, to establish the consulting and nonprofit investment group Kyklou International. The goal was to create a sustainable model for St. Mary Kevin's work and provide a space for vocational training. Kyklou means "sustainable cycle" in Greek, making it a fitting name for their vision to promote sustainable, grass-roots development in Uganda and beyond.

In March 2011, the trio traveled to Uganda to formalize partnerships with the country's largest university, an agribusiness consultancy and the orphanage. Prinz knew that coming in with a Western viewpoint and dictating the direction of the orphanage was going to fail.

"My vision for Kyklou is to empower the local Ugandans to make the change they want to see in their country," he said. "They are the real experts."

The team created a five-year business plan that included establishing a pig farm to eventually raise \$90,000. Recruiting



Ben Prinz with one of the children who fuel his determination to make a difference in Africa.

locals to implement and advise on the pig farm would help ensure sustainable success. The venture's investment needs would be split evenly between SMK and Kyklou to ensure a tangible stake in and joint ownership of the business plan.

Kyklou is helping the children at the orphanage, and in the surrounding community. Prinz and his team employ local labor and purchase feed from small farms throughout the country at fair prices. The farm, with about 120 pigs, now provides 20 percent of the orphanage's operating budget. Doubling the number of pigs in June is expected to increase the financial funding to 40 percent.

Kyklou plans to expand its work beyond SMK Farms, focusing next on empowering small-scale farmers throughout Uganda.

"We're excited to see how we can leverage market-based initiatives to provide sustainable solutions to complex problems in Uganda," said Prinz.

Prinz's primary motivation for his work comes from his faith. He also treasures the support and encouragement from people at home, including his SigEp brothers at Chicago.

"They show support, want to know what is going on, and one has even come to Uganda with me," he said.

Virtue, Diligence, and Brotherly Love are a universal language that Prinz has carried 8,000 miles from his chapter in Chicago. Visit www.kyklou.org to learn more.

Hard work and outreach spell success at Indiana's RLC Chapter

By C. KEVIN TABER, Murray State '06

The Residential Learning Community (RLC) concept is the model for Sigma Phi Epsilon's approach to a holistic academic experience at our chapters. Hosting faculty, administration and community leaders for various discussion panels, "fireside chats," classes and workshops is a cornerstone of programming for RLCs and the most visible way to set them apart among Greek organizations.

Over the past few years, the Indiana University Chapter has taken this mission to heart. The Indiana Beta RLC has hosted several university courses on topics ranging from personal and organizational leadership to the relevance of fraternities in the 21st century. The chapter has cultivated a significant partnership over the past few years with the dean of students and a campus leadership program, which helped them offer these courses—unique among fraternities on campus. These relationships, like those with all faculty and administrators, require the chapter members to seek out, develop and maintain connections over time.

Indiana Beta's series of faculty fireside chats, panel discussions and workshops is popular across member generations, from undergraduates to alumni. The RLC has hosted a wide range of Sound Mind and Sound Body programs including:

- A lively discussion on the real life of a spy with a former Cold War CIA operative.
- An intriguing faculty fireside chat on the controversies surrounding immigration.
- A discussion on media sensationalism with a Pulitzer Prize winning journalist.
- A panel on the role of religion in the public sphere, featuring scholars and religious leaders from various world faith traditions.
- A stress management and relaxation techniques session facilitated by a professional stress management expert and licensed massage therapist.



Above: Geography Professor Dennis Conway, left, and Latino Studies Professor John Nieto-Phillips hold one of the chapter's fireside chats on U.S. immigration. Right: A group of undergraduate members listen to the discussion and review handouts from the professors. This is just one example of how the chapter creates a living-learning environment in the facility.

Both educational and entertaining, these events are happening for the Indiana Chapter through the diligence and networking of the undergraduate leaders and volunteers, with help from me as the resident scholar and the RLC chairman. Many individuals work year-round to make contacts with faculty, administrators and community leaders to schedule events and generate ideas for new and exciting RLC programming. Chapter representatives meet regularly with faculty, administrators and staff and conduct extensive research on faculty expertise and campus resource center offerings to target outreach efforts toward the greatest potential benefit for the undergraduate membership.

The RLC model demonstrates that the university and Greek communities on campuses are best served if they collaborate on an academic agenda. At Indiana, we have found that faculty, administrators and community leaders are happy to do just that. The individuals who



facilitate great programming for chapters are out there waiting to contribute to the development of our undergraduate members—our job is to seek them out and invite them into our facilities. The first move is ours to make.

Taber is the resident scholar at Indiana and is pursuing his doctorate in political science.

Going Global:

Brothers bridge international borders
to leave their mark

Lundgren leads “The World’s Largest Store”

By MATTHEW EISEN, Yale '10

A vintage elevator takes you to the office of **Terry Lundgren, Arizona '74**, on the 13th floor of the historic Macy’s building in New York’s Herald Square. Yet Lundgren’s nationally-known Macy’s, a 153-year-old public company with over \$26 billion in annual sales, stands wholly modern and focused on the future. Outside of Lundgren’s office, his nameplate reads: “Chief Customer Officer,” a clever moniker for the Macy’s top executive and a telling nod to the tens of millions of ever-changing and increasingly sophisticated shoppers he serves each year.

Lundgren has a confident gait, tall and square-shouldered with an easy smile. He projects the kind of confidence that makes you believe he could sell anything. His 37-year career in retail has been marked by a steady ascent to this current post, where he has overseen rapid growth at Macy’s, including an \$11 billion acquisition of the May Department Stores Company in 2005. The size of the company has nearly quadrupled since 1994. The company’s methodical transformation into a national brand has forced Lundgren to develop and convey a clear strategy for the department store’s future, including a focus on technology and potential international expansion.

Few American department stores have

been successful moving overseas, in part because of competition from incumbent brands and regulatory factors. Though Bloomingdale’s—a Macy’s Inc. brand—opened a store in Dubai in 2010 under a license agreement, after three years of assiduous negotiations, Lundgren’s company has focused more on “clicks” than “bricks” abroad. Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s opened online shopping to about 100 countries in 2011, a possible springboard for future international growth of physical stores.

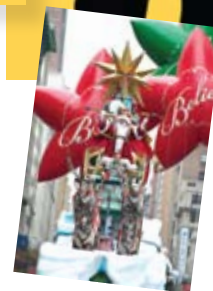
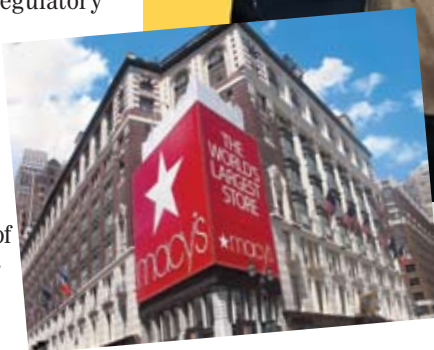
“Long term there will only be a few brands that can carry the international message and weight and brand recognition—Macy’s and Bloomingdale’s will be among them,” Lundgren said.

Lundgren acknowledged expansion into markets like China present enticing possibilities, though the challenges around trade regulations, pricing and counterfeiting introduce challenges. And he must attend to not only his company’s international dealings, but the activities

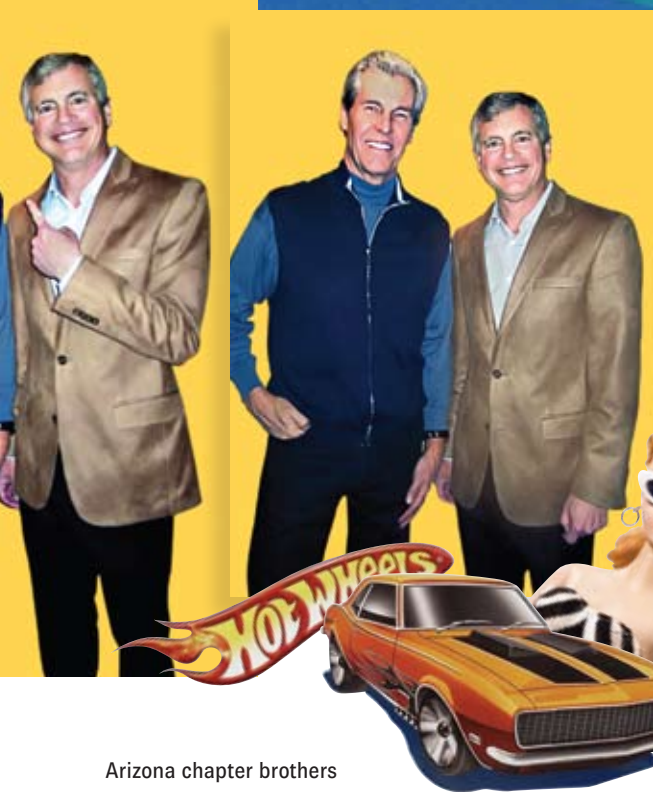
of thousands of suppliers who make their products in factories all over the world. About 500 Macy’s employees manage the company’s suppliers from offices worldwide under a very strict Vendor and Supplier Code of Conduct.

“We have very strong beliefs about child labor laws, discrimination and unsafe work environments,” Lundgren said. “This is our criteria and if you can’t live with that, we can’t do business with you.”

Matters of international outreach—like partnerships with Rwandan and Haitian artists, who produce intricate baskets



From Qatar to Kenya. From Shanghai to Sri Lanka.
From Moscow to London. SigEps extend their reach across
the globe to save lives, to build orphanages, to carry on the business
of America in far-flung lands, to offer the American college experience to
men from other countries, to learn the ways of a new culture. And
SigEp is better for it. More diverse. More open. More balanced.
Read some of their stories and
expand your perspective.



Arizona chapter brothers
Terry Lundgren and Bob Eckert
had some rare time together at a recent conference for CEOs
in Vail, Colo. Both came away from their chapter experience
with leadership skills and the diligence they needed to make
it to the top in their respective fields.

Eckert controls the helm as Mattel makes toys for the world

By CONOR HEALY, Chicago '10

The bright blue eyes glaring out from the poster might be disconcerting were they not framed by a familiar blonde hairdo and pink lips. It's Barbie, the icon of childhood imagination, who greets visitors of Mattel, Inc. in El Segundo, Calif.

Robert Eckert, Arizona '76, has been the guardian of the house that Barbie built since 2000, when he joined Mattel as chairman and CEO. Though he stepped down as CEO in December 2011, Eckert remains chairman of the board of the world's largest toy company. With board positions at McDonald's and Levi Strauss, and 23 years at Kraft Foods, Inc., where he became president and CEO before moving to Mattel, it's safe to say Bob Eckert knows a thing or two about managing global corporations. He'll even admit it; he's a sucker for iconic brands.

However, he was once an undergraduate in a SigEp chapter like many of you. The Balanced Man Program would debut 15 years after Eckert attended Arizona, but his chapter already embodied its core principles. Eckert was attracted to SigEp because it was the most well-rounded and hard-working fraternity on campus. As incredible as it is, he's not surprised that two of his concurrent brothers are also CEOs of major corporations. **Terry Lundgren, Arizona '74**, is the CEO of Macy's department stores (see page 22), and **Greg Boyce, Arizona '76**, is the CEO of Peabody Energy, the world's largest private sector coal company. They may not have had the Balanced Man Program, but they must have been doing something right.

In Eckert's case, that "something" was diligent work and a commitment to a management strategy that not only secured a successful transition from Kraft to Mattel (*Business Week* named him a "Top Twenty Five Manager of the Year" in 2002) but also helped increase Mattel's sales by \$2 billion over the course of his tenure. His strategy is comprised of three

continued, page 25

“We have very strong beliefs about child labor laws, discrimination and unsafe work environments. This is our criteria and if you can’t live with that, we can’t do business with you.”



Lundgren, continued from page 22

and jewelry to sell through Macy’s, were far from Lundgren’s focus when he started his career. After paying his way through his junior and senior years of college, the Macy’s chief graduated from Arizona with 13 job offers, a hefty roster inspired partly by his desire to replace his junker auto. He landed a position with Bullock’s, an upscale department store in Los Angeles, and began his impressive corporate climb.

An insatiable appetite for the business propelled Lundgren quickly up the ladder, though there were times when he felt mired in the corporate web and did not advance as quickly as he had hoped. He found revelation in the allegorical wall hanging of a trusted college recruiter.

“He had this sign behind his head on his wall. It was a picture of a potted plant and it read, ‘bloom where you are planted,’” Lundgren said. “He said, ‘Don’t wait around to be trained, take it upon

yourself to grow in the seat you’re in and when you do that, when you know you’re making progress on your own, you’ll find that you’re getting promoted faster.’ And I really took that message to heart.”

Lessons like this one and those from Lundgren’s time as vice president of his SigEp chapter, where he shared experiences with future CEOs like **Bob Eckert, ’76**, (Mattel, see page 23) and **Greg Boyce, ’76**, (Peabody Energy), further enhanced his career surge. He became a Bullock’s store manager at age 29, CEO of Neiman Marcus at 37 and CEO of Macy’s at 51.

“Terry understands his business is a marathon and there are no silver bullets,” said Meyer Feldberg, former Dean of

Columbia Business School and current Macy’s, Inc. board member. “He loves the business, though it is demanding and the pressure is unremitting.”

While the expectations for technological innovation and local focus have

altered the shopping experience, people remain the priority for Lundgren. The

aim of the gregarious chief is to make his 170,000-employee company feel like a mom-and-pop shop with transparency and clear communication. That’s why you’ll find Mr. Lundgren working the Macy’s sales floor on Black Friday—a day he’s never missed, even as the store has opened earlier and earlier—greeting customers at the door and talking to store associates.

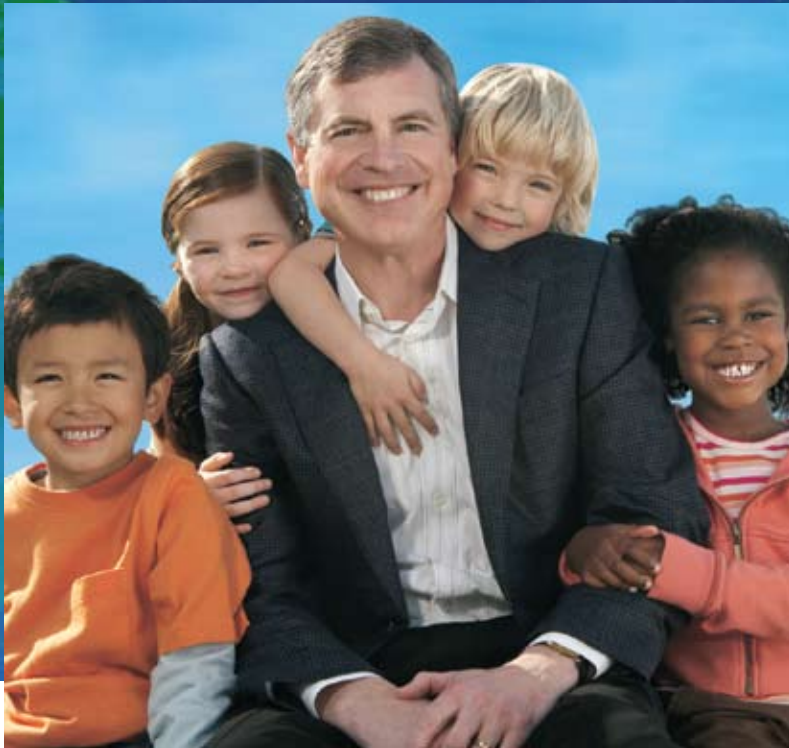
“I want to be there to show my employees that it’s not just them. I’m there too,” Lundgren said. “I’ve always had that belief. I want my employees to know that I’m working with them.”

Feldberg has recognized Lundgren’s successful team-building skills. The board member said Lundgren’s keen ability to gain people’s empathy has allowed the CEO to better implement his plans.

And while Lundgren’s success with Macy’s has afforded him the opportunity to take on new roles, like serving as a board member of the Federal Reserve Bank of New York and chairman of the board of the National Retail Federation, Lundgren continues to put most of his energy into his company and, of course, continues to bloom. 



Bloomingdale’s is also a Macy’s brand. Through a licensing agreement, the store opened a location in Dubai in 2010.



Most kids in the world don't have the opportunity to play, due to economic factors. Mattel's mission is to help more kids play. "It's good for business and it's good for children," Eckert said.

Eckert, continued from page 23

simple tenets that any leader can apply to any management role.

- Don't be outworked. "There is an almost perfect correlation between effort and results."
- You must, "be comfortable in your own skin." Be confident enough to make the unpopular decisions, but also acknowledge what you don't know and delegate to those who do.
- And most importantly, as a leader, you need empathy. You must be able to relate to and engage with others.

At Mattel, Eckert ate in the cafeteria as much as possible. There, he was able to connect with employees at every level of the company. (For an in-depth explanation of this strategy, read Eckert's "Where Leadership Starts," published in the *Harvard Business Review*, Nov., 2001). Eckert urges you to ask yourself, "Do others want to see me win?" When you are empathic toward others, they want to see you succeed, even when you stumble.

In 2007, Mattel had several major product recalls for toys manufactured in China and distributed worldwide, and the company came under intense scrutiny from consumer advocates, government officials and parents. "It was the greatest challenge of my career," he said, but because Mattel accepted responsibility for the mistakes, and he was forthright in providing solutions, the critics essentially, "let Mattel off the hook."

Eckert's handling of that situation is a great example of global corporate responsibility, a term that didn't exist when he was in business school. The world needs businesses, so it seems like common sense that a business should operate responsibly within its society. And yet, when Eckert contrasts the current high standards of Oscar Mayer (a division of Kraft) to the non-existent meat packing standards of the past (remember Upton

Sinclair's *The Jungle*?), this notion of corporate responsibility may not seem like such a given.

Eckert says Mattel maintains responsibility by ensuring the safety of their products, conducting business as sustainably as possible, and creating "shared value," or states of existence that are good for both business and society. Eckert stated, for instance, that, "Play is important in a child's development." Motor, language, math, and reading skills—creative thinking in general—are all encouraged and developed through play. Most kids in the world don't have the opportunity to play, due to

economic factors. Mattel's mission is to help more kids play. "It's good for business and it's good for children," Eckert said.

It may not surprise you that Eckert set out to create shared value within Mattel by investing in its



This \$140,000, jewel-encrusted Hot Wheels car was designed in 2008 to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the Hot Wheels brand. It was auctioned off for charity.

employees. As CEO, he instituted programs offering leadership and business development through M.B.A. level courses taught on site. *FORTUNE* magazine has ranked Mattel 79th on the 2012 list of 100 best places to work in the U.S. The company has made the list for the past five years.

After this interview, Eckert is off to play. Not with the toys he's ushered into this world, rather he's headed to the golf course. He's not yet sure how long this "retirement" will last, but for now, he's enjoying his extra playtime.





Hendren provides aid to a young boy in Iraq. A photographer snapped the photo of him trying to clean a wound. Sometimes, reporting can take on unexpected dimensions.

Reporter challenges stereotypes on global scale

By STEVE DORSEY, *American* '09

John Hendren, California-Santa Barbara '89, has been riding a wave of change for years. Caught up in the ever-evolving profession of national journalism, Hendren has had to transform himself and his career several times to stay afloat.

"I think that really is the key to journalism these days," he said. "I feel like I'm hopping from one sinking lily pad to the next to get ashore."

Hendren has taken on the quest of saving himself from sinking media outlets. He's moved from working as a print reporter for the *Los Angeles Times*, to radio for NPR, and then transitioning to television for ABC News as a Washington-based correspondent.

In April 2010, ABC News lost a quarter of its 1,400-person staff, through buyouts and layoffs. Hendren saw the writing on the wall, amid tightening budgets and an erosion of viewers.

In December 2011, Hendren picked up and moved to a new challenge: Al Jazeera's English language channel. Now, the world is his community, something he says was instilled in him as a SigEp.

The Qatar-based international media organization dubs itself as the first independent Arabic news channel in the world. It was launched in 1996 and now includes several global channels, English and Arabic websites and other components.

But for Hendren, Al Jazeera proves to

be unique.
"Everybody knows what the U.S. networks are, and they are just now discovering Al Jazeera," he said.
For the most part, the English-language channel remains largely unavailable in the U.S., with the network continuing to work to make inroads with cable providers.
Hendren, though, saw it as a new opportunity, especially with a recent endorsement of the network by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.
In the network's post-9/11 news coverage, critics assaulted the organization for broadcasting statements by terrorist groups. They called the media organization anti-American and anti-Semitic.
In fact, criticism of the network continues.
"There is no doubt...that anti-Semitism is woven into Al Jazeera's Arabic reporting," Erik Nisbet, a professor at Ohio State who studies Arab media and anti-Americanism, told the *American Journalism Review* in an April 2011 article.
The network though, earned international acclaim, for its pioneering coverage of the so-called Arab Spring in the Middle East in early 2011.

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Hendren has traveled extensively, and in this case, he was able to catch some free time in Bath, England.



Joe Lindsay, orange scrubs, is surrounded by a few of the people he has helped in Belize.

Hendren said he's, "fighting against negative stereotypes of the network, and promoting the organization's image as fair, ethical, and open." He faces challenges getting outsiders to understand Al Jazeera.

What attracted him to the network, he said, was the opportunity to head up its new Chicago office, as part of its expanding American presence.

"The main reason for me was just to open a new bureau and cover a large swath of new territory," he said.

Hendren covers news through the Midwest and the world for an estimated 220 million viewers worldwide, more than the three major U.S. networks combined, according to Al Jazeera.

"We tell the story from the international perspective," Hendren said. "When we did the story on the Iowa caucuses, we did a whole story on what a caucus is."

Hendren's undergraduate SigEp experience was instrumental in shaping his professional and personal life.

"I think the importance of doing something meaningful was really impressed on me," he said.

For Hendren, finding his own success and professional fulfillment, has always meant facing a new challenge.



Left: Usually reporters are on camera above the waist. "I tend to wear loud socks because that's the only place a correspondent can express himself," Hendren explained. At least they match his shirt.

Health care in faraway lands: Brothers bring relief to needy patients

By RYAN SUGDEN, Wisconsin '06

Patients line up outside of a hospital in Leon, Nicaragua with X-rays in hand, waiting for the team of American doctors to arrive.

Grant Buttram, M.D., North Carolina State '93, a neurosurgeon from Raleigh, joins his fellow volunteers and gets to work. He meets and evaluates his patients—they have no existing medical charts—and will perform up to three surgeries a day, handicapped by poor lighting, aging facilities and the country's inadequate sterilization practices. It is, "like practicing neurosurgery in its infancy," Buttram said.

The patients don't wait for **Joe Lindsay, D.D.S.**,

Tennessee '64, a New Orleans dentist; he goes to them. For nearly a quarter of a century, Lindsay and other volunteer dentists, doctors and nurses have crisscrossed the jungles of Belize to provide medical care in remote villages. In the early years, Lindsay's team would strap medical supplies and portable examination tables onto a team of horses and hike up to six hours to reach isolated villages. His team performs rudimentary dental procedures like extractions, often relying on flashlights to examine patients and scuba tanks for compressed air. Between dental

care, general physical exams, and dispensing medications, Lindsay and his team serve several hundred villagers in a week's time.

Both Buttram and Lindsay say that they were merely responding to a call for help when they began their medical missions abroad. In 2009, Buttram was approached by a colleague, a general surgeon, who had been leading groups of doctors to Nicaragua through the organization Project Health for Leon since 1985. The colleague asked if Buttram would join the group, saying simply that there were patients in need. That was enough to persuade

Buttram, who said, "Every surgeon should experience this."

Lindsay was the pioneer of his organization, Dos Amigos. In 1988, Belizean missionaries visited Lindsay's New Orleans church and described the dire dental and medical needs of the people. Lindsay gathered a handful of dentists and nurses and began what is now an annual pilgrimage to the Toledo District of Belize, one of the country's poorest. In the following years, Dos Amigos has grown. Team members now include teenagers and teachers, students and medical professionals. The group recently

constructed a two-story building, with exam rooms, offices and a dormitory, to serve as its jungle headquarters and a meeting space for villagers.

Buttram and Lindsay agree their service abroad has given them a new perspective. "Everyone comes back with more appreciation for what they have at home," Lindsay said.

Buttram concurred, "Americans sometimes take what they have for granted. In Nicaragua, the patients expect nothing and appreciate everything." That, they both said, is the value of serving in foreign lands: helping others while also gaining appreciation for their lives at home.

Buttram got his start in service learning as an undergraduate. In addition to raising money for the homeless, he and his SigEp brothers would spend an evening at a shelter. He says that the experience helped him appreciate his station in life and that he finds a similar sentiment traveling to Nicaragua. "While donating money is great—and we could all probably give more—I hope more people go out and personally help those in need."

Lindsay said that he is rewarded



Top: Joe Lindsay, orange scrubs, pauses with a fellow health care volunteer and a few of the children he has helped in Belize.

Bottom: Surgeon Grant Buttram makes do with minimal medical resources to help needy patients in Nicaragua.

"The true measure of a man is how he treats someone who can do him absolutely no good."

~ SAMUEL JOHNSON

even more than his patients. Working with basic tools in difficult conditions, he is challenged professionally, and his patients affect him in a profound way. "You see how happy the villagers are despite how

little they have. The things you worried about before just don't matter as much when you return." Reflecting on nearly 25 years of service abroad, Lindsay said the purpose of his work is clear. "We are doing God's work by helping our fellow man."

You can get more information about Project Health for Leon and Dos Amigos, at www.ProjectHealthForLeon.org and www.DosAmigos.org.

A 1950s diner in Russia? Why not!

By ERIN MULLALLY, Michigan State '99

Starting a successful business by introducing Russians to the traditional American cheeseburger may seem like a challenge to some, but not to **Shawn McKenna, Maine '77**.

Brother McKenna first began traveling to Russia in the early 1990s as a sales and marketing manager with Procter & Gamble. As he began to form his business connections on the ground in Russia, he noticed a unique opportunity during the closing days of the Cold War.

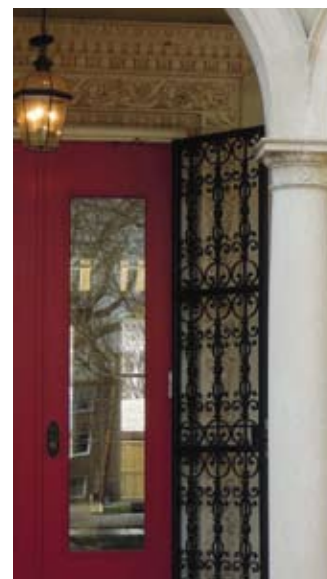
"In Russia, there is simply not a strong tradition of going to eat out in a restaurant," explained McKenna. "We thought there might be an interest here among the average Russian in experiencing both the atmosphere and food offered in the typical American diner."

So McKenna and his partners did the natural thing—they sourced a complete 1950s style diner in Florida, broke it down, and shipped it to Russia where it was reassembled in Moscow's Aquarium Park, only a short walk from the Kremlin. The first Starlite Diner was an immediate hit among both Russians and hungry ex-pats when it opened.

"We faced a huge amount of challenges as we started out—from operating permits, to parking space, to development and construction issues, to inspection after inspection," McKenna continued. "But we learned our lessons and learned to think on our feet quickly, as we had to manage constantly changing laws and codes."

"It is still a constant battle however. For example, we were recently fined for having mustard dispensers on tables at one of our restaurants," he laughed. "Teaching our staff the ins-and-outs of cooking, serving and eating our American menus can also be a challenge, but a fun one."

McKenna's focus has been primarily on Moscow, where a total of five Starlite Diners are now located. His operations and affiliates continue to grow organically and today employ 2,500 people at 40 eating operations throughout Russia—from banquet and airline catering to



“It has been amazing to get to know the Russians and learn how much they value friends and family.” ~ MCKENNA



The five Starlite Diners stay busy inside and outside. They are open 24 hours a day, and it turns out, the whole 50s diner concept fits right in with the locals as well as patrons from other countries.

Despite his hectic international schedule, National Director Shawn McKenna made time to stop by Zollinger House and meet with the staff in March.

solid, well-educated and instinctive local knowledge.”

McKenna splits much of his time between the United States and Russia. He serves as a board member for the University of Maine School of Business and also sits on the Sigma Phi Epsilon National Board of Directors.

“SigEp has been the most defining developmental experience of my life. Serving as chapter president during my time as an undergrad was an incredible leadership experience,” he said. “And then I had the fortune of being selected in the late ’70s to work as a regional director for the national Fraternity, which really trained me for the rest of my life.”

“When I was recently sick, the group of people that were the most unconditionally supportive were my SigEp brothers. I have enjoyed and benefitted immensely from the cardinal principle of brotherly love. It is powerful!”



high-end steak restaurants and corporate cafeterias.

McKenna feels fortunate to have formed a strong bond with the country of Russia and its people. “It has been amazing to get to know the Russians and learn how much they value friends and family. I’m in sync with their traditions, customs and culture, and they greatly appreciate any effort made to connect with them.”

His advice for those looking to enter Russia? “There are certain barriers and the administration here can be tenuous, but if you can learn to embrace the energy and the Russian style of ‘aggressive civility,’ then there are terrific opportunities,” he explained. “And find a reliable Russian partner, as Russia can be a difficult place to operate without



Chapter keeps abroad brothers in the loop

By **JARED ALVES**, American '12

One chapter was challenged by a striking statistic: more than half of American University undergraduate students choose to study abroad. The constant outflow of older brothers to distant schools and continents could have destabilized the brotherhood.

New members would be strangers to those returning to campus, and returning men could feel detached from the brotherhood that they

loved before they left. American pursues an outreach program to ensure that these international travelers keep their connection to SigEp alive.

Chapter President **Anthony Miller, '12**, established the abroad brother chair position in late 2010. This brother coordinates updates from traveling brothers, and distributes entertaining snapshots of life overseas to those at home.

The chapter as a whole commits to a Sound Body goal of

running a distance equal to the number of miles separating them from an abroad brother. This past fall, D.C. Delta targeted the nearly 5,000 miles between Washington and Rome. The goal was incorporated into the Balanced Man Program, and each brother completed his 84-mile share.

During the Sigma Challenge, new members still make an effort to get to know the brothers who are abroad. The sigma coordinators and

the abroad brother chair provide Skype names, email addresses, and Facebook pages of those abroad. Those connections have proven vital. Indeed, **Daniel Knoll, '13**, who studied in Israel, was selected as a big brother last fall.

Since many brothers travel abroad as juniors, they still have a year to bring a renewed energy to SigEp and new perspectives to challenge past practices. Four traveling brothers sought

Facing page: From right: Brothers Erik Roos, '12, and Mitchell Duncombe, '12, with their host Hannah and friend Jesse outside the yurt where they slept in Mongolia's Gorkhi-Terelj National Park.

Left: Austen Walsh, '11, takes a spelunking break just inside a cave that overlooks Viñales Valley, Cuba.

Right: Brother Erik Roos, '12, riding a Mongolian horse in Gorki-Terelj National Park.



three positions last fall, and of those, **José Morales, '13**, was elected vice president of member development, and **Nick Sanders, '13**, became president.

Electing abroad brothers has some precedent. **Kristian Hoysradt, '09**, was elected president while abroad in 2007. Under his leadership, American University SEC earned its charter. The current president decided to run when he was already in London. "I never worried that my being abroad would hurt my chances of getting elected," said Sanders. "I was in such regular contact with my

brothers that sometimes it felt as if I had never left at all."

As a result of this outreach program, the chapter continues to encourage brothers to study throughout the world. It means leaving comfortable America for places such as Azerbaijan, Cuba and even Syria last spring. It also means new memories and great stories to share. With a successful outreach program, a chapter can have no fear sending its brothers abroad, so that they too can have worldly experiences, but remain a part of the chapter.  



Above: Daniel Knoll, '13, stands in front of the Treasury in Petra, Jordan.



Garry Tam Huang, '14, stops for a photo along the Great Wall of China.

These SigEps from American University go to the far corners of the world while enjoying a strong anchor at their home chapter.

Corning manager and his family make their home in Shanghai

By TREY WYDYSH, Richmond '07

Moving for your job can be tough. It's a lot to ask of anyone to pack up their life in one city and move to another, leaving a home and uprooting a family in the process. What can be even tougher, however, is moving abroad, leaving one culture behind and starting from scratch in a foreign one.

Tom Lynch, Pennsylvania State '90, moved to Shanghai, China, four years ago as part of his job at Corning. Lynch works as a General Manager for Environmental Technologies—which, in part, focuses on creating emission control devices for catalytic converters—managing operations in China and India.

Lynch says his transition to life in China with his wife and two young sons was challenging, both in his personal life and in the business world. He says one of his biggest challenges was to understand that people live and handle business differently.

"Things are done differently," he observed. "It's easy to think they do it wrong, but it's not wrong. It's just different."

Among the differences that Lynch says stuck out the most when he arrived in China was that people's work lives and personal lives were more intertwined than they were in the United States.

"In the U.S., work was work and personal was personal," he said. "It seemed to be much more open in China. There are very few secrets here."

One of the ways Lynch worked to adapt to his new life in China was to learn the language, taking lessons twice a week. "When you learn about the language, you learn about the culture," he explained.

The effort Lynch put into learning the language has had additional benefits, helping him to build relationships with his business associates and clients in China. "They're always very appreciative that someone makes the effort," he said. "It goes a long way in building a rapport. It means a lot."

Lynch adds that learning about the culture helped him to quickly adapt to his new business environment and keep a clear mind when dealing with business challenges.

"Chinese people are very patient. They don't overreact to differences," he said, adding that understanding patience was fundamental in adapting Corning's business practices to take advantage of China's business culture.

"You can't make too many assumptions," Lynch said. "That's when you get yourself into trouble."

Of course, Lynch also cites his time as a SigEp as an important factor to his success at Corning, both in China and the United States. Lynch said his experiences as a brother and as a regional director developed his work ethic and prepared him for management positions in his career.

"SigEp provided the opportunity to create a vision and get a group of people behind that vision at a large organization," he said, adding that people in China carry a great admiration for American organizations and visions.

"People in China seem to really grasp the whole process of developing a vision and organizing people behind that vision," he said.

Lynch hopes to continue to use his experiences as a SigEp and what he has

learned so far in China to build upon his success during his remaining time there, melding his keys to success abroad with the skills that made him successful in the U.S.

"I think there can be a good blend of not only how we do business, but how we live our lives in the West, and how we live our lives in the East," he said.



Lynch and his family stop at a traditional area of Shanghai where many expatriates have their photos snapped. This is a narrow lane of old Shanghai houses called Shikumen.

Bottom: Lynch took his Boy Scout troop to the northernmost province of China, Inner Mongolia. With no trees or wood, the boys had to collect dung for the fires to cook and keep warm. Rock piles like the one in the background are common as herdsmen make the piles and decorate them in tribute to their ancestors. Lynch is grateful to be able to include his family in so many different cultural experiences.



SigEps draw life lessons from faraway places

By **NICHOLAS MARTIN**, Massachusetts '10

For a pair of SigEp undergraduates, their recent decisions to study abroad turned out to be anything but the normal foreign exchange. From China to Qatar, these SigEps not only connected with a new culture, but learned about themselves in the process. Each of their experiences brought to light new and exciting ways that both of these young men were able to apply the Balanced Man Ideal, as well as prepare themselves for a bright future.

Balance pays off

For **Richard Orcutt**, Utah State '13, the decision to travel abroad wasn't made lightly. Orcutt turned in an application to the U.S. State Department in hopes of securing a highly-selective internship. "It takes six months for your security clearance," Orcutt explained, "and in that time I heard nothing."

Initially defeated, Orcutt took a summer job in Alaska instead, before finding out via email of his acceptance and placement in China. He then flew from Fairbanks to Seattle, and on to South Korea, before finally landing in the exotic city of Guangzhou. Though he spent 13 weeks there, in one of the largest cities in the world, Orcutt ended up learning more about himself than any of the people around him.

While poring over confidential records one day, Orcutt asked his boss why he, someone without an outstanding GPA, had been considered for the position at all. She told him that it was well-roundedness separating him from other, purely academic candidates. Suddenly, being a balanced man offered up new possibilities for Orcutt.

"I thought I had to be an Ivy-Leaguer, or the son of a senator to be truly successful," he confessed. "Landing this internship, though, taught me that I can accomplish anything—that nothing in my past can prevent me from being my best."

Now home, Orcutt has been trying to use the experience to show his brothers at Utah Alpha how anyone can succeed, and hopes that others will follow his

example of not feeling discouraged. "Even if you don't think you are qualified, or good enough," he explained, "you're the only one who can impede yourself."

Soccer bridges cultures

Another SigEp's experience in Qatar didn't start off smoothly either.

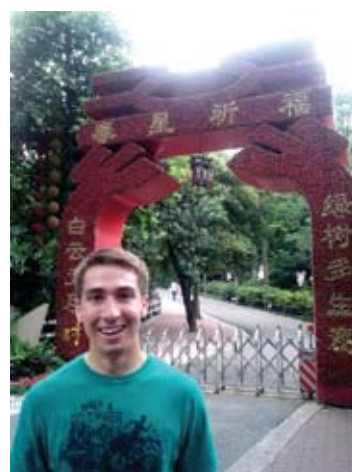
"I got off the plane at 7:00 at night, and the wall of heat hit me; it was over 100 degrees," **Steve Crawford**, Carnegie Mellon '14, explained, "very different from where I'm from in Buffalo." Aside from the heat, however, he insisted that his time in "Education City," which includes satellite campuses of Cornell and Georgetown among others, was life-changing. He even revealed that fitting in came through an unlikely bond he shared thanks to keeping up a sound body.

Despite not knowing what his teammates were shouting at each other in Arabic, Crawford played for Carnegie Mellon's soccer team in Qatar. He believes that the experience left him with

that his exchange even helped him in finding a summer internship, adding that, "Employers are really interested in studying abroad and the experience, so now I try to make more people familiar with this in Pittsburgh."

At the start of a new semester at Carnegie Mellon, Crawford said, "I'm trying to explain it to the freshmen in the chapter. The sooner people think about an opportunity the better. They all need to realize that it's an undervalued option, open to anyone, that can benefit them in the future."

Studying in distant corners of the globe, both Orcutt and Crawford came back with not only a better understanding of a region, but themselves, as well as a convincing message for their chapters. For Orcutt, the experience taught him a valuable lesson in self-worth that he now passes on to others. Crawford learned that any experience can be beneficial, as long as you are willing to try. Both



a much more permanent impression of the region because it allowed him to see his fellow students in a new light. "By playing soccer, I was able to interact with Qataris outside of the academic setting, and seeing that difference in people was so interesting," he said.

Crawford attended class with students from all across the Middle East, a situation that challenged his preconceived notions of a whole region. He revealed

students now agree that their time spent abroad was an unforgettable experience, and one that will continue to shape their lives, and perhaps even the lives of other SigEps, for years to come.



Left: Steve Crawford, Carnegie Mellon '14, sits on the edge of the Persian Gulf, overlooking the city skyline of Doha in Qatar. Right: Richard Orcutt, Utah State '13, served an internship with the U. S. State Department and stopped at the entrance to Baiyun Park near Guangzhou, China.

Lawrence Chapter brings brotherhood to international students

By **KEVIN LYNCH**,
Maryland-College Park '08

As an inclusive organization, SigEp strives to embrace members from all backgrounds, and the Lawrence Chapter exemplifies that ideal.

For many years, Wisconsin Alpha has attracted a slew of international students and has had 11 members from abroad in the past three years. Students from such diverse locations as Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Nepal have found a home in SigEp. The chapter also sends many brothers abroad to Ireland, France and the United Kingdom, among others.

The chapter's vice president of programming, **Mike Kumbalek**, '13, said that the chapter always has three or four international students and that their presence at the chapter helps to encourage more to come and make their home there. Kumbalek said that having students with diverse backgrounds helps the chapter brothers expand their perspective, and it makes them more open to everyone. Kumbalek said that it also shows the



Lawrence's study abroad students bring great diversity to the chapter, including, first row, far left: Kabindra Dakhal, '14, from Nepal; Luke Phillips, '15, from Jamaica; and Pravin Jayasinghe, '14 from Sri Lanka. Kenn Goh, '15, second row, third from right, is from Canada.

inclusive nature of SigEp, and believes, "if you are open to our ideals, you are welcome." He said, "welcoming these students gives the chapter an identity of inclusiveness."

Bringing international students into the chapter gives the brothers contacts in foreign countries and allows American and foreign students to build lifelong relationships with people across the globe. At the same time, the brothers provide a network of friends to students who may otherwise have difficulty making new connections. For the spring 2012 semester, the chapter has four international students: **Kenn Goh**, '15, from

Canada, **Kabindra Dhakal**, '14, from Nepal, **Luke Phillips**, '15, from Jamaica and **Pravin Jayasinghe**, '14, from Sri Lanka.

Kumbalek said that he could not pinpoint any difficulties with having the students there. Any issues that may arise due to cultural differences are worked out quickly, and the chapter prides itself on its diverse character.

Dhakal shared his experience as a new international student at Lawrence. He met a group of brothers his second day on campus, and that group included **Nay Bhulanja**, '11, from Bangladesh. Another student from abroad helped

allay Dhakal's fears, and he soon realized that the men of SigEp were a great group that he wanted to join. Bhulanja would eventually become Dhakal's big brother in the Fraternity.

Dhakal said the one thing that drew him to SigEp was the brotherly love: "Everyone at SigEp was awesome," he said. "I met people that I knew would be friends for my whole life." Dhakal said he met people from other fraternities, but he knew SigEp was the one for him. The brothers of SigEp, particularly **Bhulanja**, **Nicholas Hitch**, '12, **Matthew Horn**, '13, **Peter Vanney**, '11, and **Heung Jo Ji**, '11, became his first

and best friends on campus.

Dhakal said his parents were apprehensive about him joining SigEp at first, but in the end they understood that the Fraternity was just a strong

"Having students with diverse backgrounds helps the chapter brothers expand their perspective, and it makes them more open to everyone."

~ **MIKE KUMBALEK**, '13

group of friends. Dhakal said he is planning on returning home after graduating, but said he would definitely be taking the lifelong friendships he has forged home with him.



Alumni and Volunteer News

Brother produces reality show hits

By KEVIN TEETS, Tennessee-Martin '06

If you're like many viewers who love reality television, chances are you may be watching one of the shows produced by **Scott Paskoff, Arizona State '95**. With shows like *The Bachelorette*, *Big Brother*, and *Real World/Road Rules Challenge* to his credit, Paskoff said personal integrity is what has allowed him to be successful in the, "cut-throat environment," of Hollywood.

"In this industry, all you have is your word," Paskoff said. "Your word and your integrity are what make you credible." A native of New York, Paskoff's first producing job was as the associate producer for BET's *Ultimate Hustler*. Relationship-building and networking through the Fraternity is what first opened the door for him. "My little brother in the chapter, **Rabih Ghoulam, Arizona State '95**, was a co-executive producer on a show in New York City. He was able to get me my first producing gig, and I haven't looked back since."

Paskoff moved to Los Angeles, where he produced, wrote and directed more than 25 TV shows on networks that include MTV, VH1, CBS, NBC, USA and ABC. His work has allowed him to rub elbows with celebrities like Jimmy Kimmel, Adam Carolla, Ben Stein, Tyra Banks, Vanilla Ice and Susie Castillo.

Paskoff said that his favorite producing gig thus far has been working as a challenge producer for *Real World/Road Rules Challenge*. As a challenge producer, he was charged with creating the contestants' competitions. "I love coming up with game ideas. As producers, we would not only get to come up with these ideas, but we would get to test them out ourselves." Paskoff has no trouble identifying why reality TV is so popular. "The people involved in these shows are not playing characters, they're playing



Scott Paskoff, Arizona State '95, has helped bring some of the most popular reality shows to television.

themselves, and viewers can relate to ordinary people more so than they can characters from a sitcom or drama."

Paskoff said that it takes real passion to be successful in the television and film industry. "Passion is the number one thing that this industry requires. There are lots of long hours and hard work," he said. Paskoff thinks his ability to adapt to various personalities and focus on solving problems as they come up have also been crucial to doing his job well.

His advice for those interested in the industry is to find good internships, knock on doors, continuously network and be willing to work for free in college or when possible to gain new experience.

Before his career had him managing Hollywood personalities, Paskoff said it was his undergraduate experience as a SigEp that equipped him with the

skills to work with people. "Joining the Fraternity was a great move for me. I developed leadership and networking skills when I was elected as the social chairman and vice president of programming for my chapter."

Paskoff said the most valuable thing he learned in SigEp was the power in helping others. "I learned that altruism is something that goes a long way. People remember when you do the little things without expecting anything in return."

Despite his busy schedule, Paskoff said he still regularly keeps in touch with many of his Fraternity brothers. "I see at least five of my chapter brothers from Arizona Alpha on a regular basis, and about another 15 brothers at least once a year. We were and still are a tight group of brothers and friends."

Champion waterskier honored for his contributions to the sport

Lance Renfrow, Arizona State '66, received the USA Waterskiers prestigious Award of Distinction in early April in Lakeland, Fla., to acknowledge a four-decade career in competitive and professional water skiing. Renfrow, a five-time Arizona waterskiing state champion, began his waterskiing career in 1956. He performed at Florida's Cypress Gardens for thousands of people each day and also performed on television shows including *The Ed Sullivan Show*.

Renfrow invented many water ski



stunts that are routinely performed today. He pioneered thin wet suits, wet suits with flotation, knee braces and other innovations used by water ski manufacturers. Renfrow broke new ground by developing man-made water ski lakes, and they now number 5,000 throughout the world. He has coached the Arizona State Water Ski team which won the National Championship in 2001.



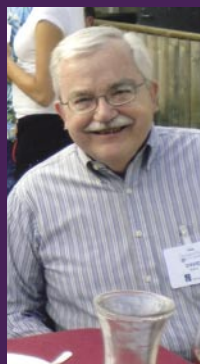
Above: Renfrow performed in 1962 at the World Famous Cypress Gardens. The girl on his shoulders is Barbara Hanson and the photo was taken by the newspaper in St. Louis where both were from.

Two campuses name facilities in honor of SigEps

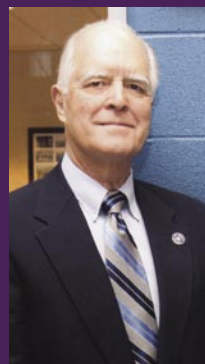
David Balint, Cleveland State '69, longtime volunteer and donor, was honored posthumously by Cleveland State University, when they named the university's new alumni office after him. Balint, a longtime volunteer and SigEp supporter passed away suddenly in 2010. Balint was an important factor in keeping alumni engaged after the Cleveland State Chapter closed and has been sorely missed. He established endowed scholarships through the SigEp Educational Foundation and CSU. In addition to many SigEp and Cleveland State alumni, Foundation Executive Director **Doug Scheibe, Kansas State '87**, and University President Ronald M. Berkman attended the dedication. **David Huiett, Cleveland State '66**, said, "Brother Balint is missed by his family, his CSU

and business associates and especially by his SigEp brothers."

James L. Wittenauer, Indiana State '59, was director of recreational sports at Indiana State for 40 years. Last October, the Administrative Suite in the Student Recreational Center was named for him.



David Balint, Cleveland State '69



James Wittenauer, Indiana State '59

John Lentz, Indiana State '91, who took over the post when Wittenauer retired, former Associate Director of Recreational Sports **Kent Wright, Indiana State '63**, and the Wittenauer family attended the dedication.

Wittenauer served on the Alumni and Volunteer Corporation and was president for several terms. He is very proud of awards received from Indiana Delta including Outstanding Alumni '87 and Outstanding Chapter Advisor '89. His former graduate assistants, students, SigEp brothers and friends donated more than \$100,000 toward naming the suite after him. AVC President **Craig Williams, Indiana State '93**, said in a letter to chapter members, "This new center will be state of the art and will be used exclusively for recreation. The center will put students first, as Jim always did."

Fellowship of the ring

By LISA HABERMEHL

Editor's note: This story appeared in the fall 2011 issue of *SU*, the university magazine of Stetson University. Stetson graciously agreed to let the *Journal* reprint the story of this remarkable journey, which was written by Lisa Habermehl. SigEp connections were crucial to reuniting a class ring with its rightful owner, a Sigma Phi Epsilon brother.

Last January, among the military community in Georgia's Muscogee County, construction worker Russ Lucas from upstate New York was six months into contracted work at Fort Benning Army infantry base. Lucas was building 60 miles of tank trails when something caught his eye.

"I was operating a bulldozer and had just exited the machine," said Lucas, "when I noticed a small red stone on the ground that looked out of place. I bent down and picked it up. It was a ring—a class ring of some sort. My first thought was that a co-worker had lost it. After checking, that wasn't the case." From that moment on, 59-year-old Lucas challenged himself to do what he thought was the best thing to do—find the rightful owner.

Lucas had never heard of Stetson University, which the ring depicted along with the class year 1966, [the Greek letters of a fraternity on the stone] and on the inside, the engraving of "LBH." Finding Stetson University on the web was only the first task of many that Lucas, and others, would press through.

"I took the call from Mr. Lucas," said Alumni Relations Administrative Secretary Cathy Foster. "After hanging up with him, I pulled a list of all of our alumni and sorted it by class year and had found an LBH. Unfortunately, we had lost contact with him or her and didn't have any current telephone or address information." Foster did a preliminary search in the Fort Benning area, but didn't come up with anything concrete. She thought she had the right person however, because LBH had graduated with the title of Lt. Colonel—a possible relation to being at Fort Benning.

"I went home and slept on it that night. And I know this may sound strange," Foster continued, "but in the middle of the night I thought, 'if Alumni Relations didn't have the most current contact information of LBH, maybe ROTC did?'"

JEREMY CALDWELL, STETSON UNIVERSITY CREATIVE SERVICES



Hargrave's class ring would sit on a U.S. Army base buried in the dirt for 43 years.

he sent an email to a few ROTC alumni who graduated in 1965 and '66. **Evans Edinger, Stetson '65**, responded to his email, recommending that McCulloch contact **Tom LaSalle, Stetson '65**—

The next morning, Foster contacted Stetson's Senior Military Science ROTC Instructor LTC Oakland McCulloch.

LTC McCulloch initiated the search. He didn't

Edinger remembered LaSalle was LBH's best man at his wedding in 1999 and thought he would have his current contact information. He was right.

Originally from Lynchburg, Va., LBH, **Les B. Hargrave, '66**, came to Stetson in 1964 after graduating from the Indian River Junior College (IRJC) in Fort Pierce, Fla. He competed for several scholarships at IRJC and received a work grant to attend Stetson, and later, Stetson Law School in St. Petersburg.

"Back in the day, my graduate school deferment was canceled, and I was a candidate for the draft," said Hargrave. "At the time, one had to remain in the top

10 percent of their graduate school class to remain deferred from the draft. I was not so fortunate, so decided to 'get ahead of the learning curve' and enlist.

"I graduated from Infantry Officer Candidate School at Fort Benning in July 1968 and was deployed to Vietnam in July 1969, returning in July 1970. It was in the early spring of 1968 during an 'Escape and Evasion' exercise around 10 at night. I was attempting to escape from a prisoner-of-war camp and was in the act of overpowering a guard. It was raining and very muddy. In the wrestling that ensued, the ring slipped off my finger. The exercise halted, and my colleagues and I began to search the grounds for the ring to no avail. It was a graduating gift from my grandparents. Although dejected, over time I forgot about the lost ring."

Hargrave's class ring would sit on a U.S. Army base buried in the dirt for 43 years, during which time nine American presidents would lead the country and deploy hundreds of thousands of combat-ready troops across the globe for major wars and numerous peacekeeping missions. A multitude of infantry brigades, Ranger regiments and even scout dogs, focused on their training mission, would pass by the gold, gemstone band—perhaps returning several more times to pass by, or perhaps never returning home at all.

The Journey Home

After retiring from a career in the U.S. Army, and earning the CPA designation, Hargrave led the St. Lucie County, Fla., Chamber of Commerce as its Executive Director for several years. "My current wife is a native Washingtonian," said Hargrave. "We had visited Washington several times, so, in 2003, we decided we wanted to return to the Pacific Northwest." Hargrave is now Budget Manager for Washington State Department of Labor and Industries.

"When I got the call from Ms. Foster, disbelief pretty well sums it up," said Hargrave. "I had purchased another Stetson class ring some years later, which I still wear today. I just had a tough time believing that Mr. Lucas would go out of his way to call Stetson and begin the discovery process that led me to him."

Before mailing it to Hargrave, Lucas took the time while on vacation in



Stetson Alumni Relations Administrative Secretary Cathy Foster with Senior Military Science ROTC Instructor LTC Oakland McCulloch helped connect the dots that led to finding Hargrave.

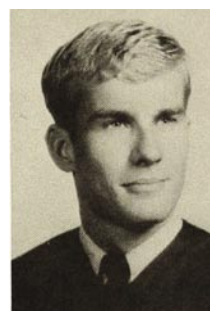


Watertown, N.Y., to purchase a little white ring box. "It was only fitting to mail it in a bamboo treasure chest," said Lucas, "since I knew it was a treasured piece."

"The ring arrived in perfect condition," Hargrave said. "While the ring no longer fits, it brought back memories of my greatest academic moments. Like, Dr. T. Wayne Bailey's political science classes. He is a highly educated, thoughtful and inspiring mentor. I've run into few like him, regretfully, and thought the world of him. And Stetson Law School's Cal Kuenzel, who was a great legal scholar and the most impressive faculty member. "I still keep in touch with Tom LaSalle and the Rev. Dave Bena, '65, both Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity brothers," said Hargrave. "Tom was best man at my wedding in 1999, and Dave, a bishop in the Anglican Church, has been a lifelong friend, spiritual mentor and fellow 'warrior' from Vietnam days. I've been to several



Construction worker Russ Lucas discovered Les Hargrave's lost ring at Fort Benning, Ga. last January, and took the time to track Hargrave down on the opposite coast.



Les B. Hargrave '66, left, at the time he attended Stetson and, far left, holding his newly found class ring that had been lost at Fort Benning during a training exercise in 1968 before his deployment to Vietnam.

fraternity reunions, which Tom LaSalle unselfishly organizes annually. Some of my memorable brothers are 'Big Brother' Tom Brownfield, '65, Larry Smith, '65, Bruce Broer, '66, Bob Foulds, '67, Ray Miller, '66, and many others.

"Mr. Lucas is a kind person who reached out and touched my life. He went far beyond what I expected—I only hope I can emulate his example and do such a good turn for someone. To badly paraphrase a response to a little girl's 1897 letter at Christmastime from the editor of *The New York Sun*, Yes, Virginia, there are good people in this world—and they come to you when you least expect them." I also appreciate the follow-up that Cathy Foster, LTC McCulloch and Tom LaSalle did on tracking me down to return the ring." Hargrave thanked Lucas by sending him a little token of his gratitude.

And so, a happy ending—one that Hargrave and Lucas now share with their grandchildren.

Hargrave continues to work, and enjoys the odd golf game; that is, when he's not buried in a textbook or sharing a glass of wine in the company of his wife, Annie, and their two schnauzers Bobo and Bama. Lucas now works in the Pittsburgh area, working on a new windmill job.

The right move: Chapter drops everything to relocate ailing brother

By JOSHUA GUTIERREZ, Cal State-San Bernardino '09

Although he was a bit older than the undergraduates and he walked with a cane, the entrance of Renaissance Brother **John McClure** into a Sacramento State chapter meeting commanded complete attention. California Theta was holding elections that evening, and many members were in heated conversation. As arguments became personal, McClure stood up and halted the discussions, "Never speak bad of a brother. Only speak of his character."

Chapter President **Curtis Dao**, '12, said the chapter's elections were never the same after that night. McClure, Order of the Golden Heart recipient and California Theta faculty advisor for over 40 years, made that speech earlier in Dao's college career. Since then, McClure faced several hip misdiagnoses and a hip replacement that made it too difficult to navigate the steps of his apartment.

"I remember holding exec board meetings in that apartment," said **Mark Fulwider**, '91, former chapter and AVC president. "It was an honor."

The apartment was McClure's home for over 40 years, and during that time the former Sacramento State librarian filled it to the brim with books.

"Literally every wall in the entire apartment was covered with books," Fulwider continued. "There had to be 10,000 books in that place."

In late August 2011, Dao and the chapter were putting the final touches on their chapter camping retreat when they received a call to help McClure move out of his apartment and into an assisted living facility.

"When asked to help move him out of his house, we felt honored," Dao said, "but we also expected to move him out quickly. Between 20 of us, we thought, no problem."

Dao and the chapter members expected to get back to their retreat by that evening. However, when they entered



A group of SigEp undergraduates and alumni from Sacramento State dropped everything to help ailing brother John McClure, inset, relocate to an assisted living facility. When they saw how many books the former librarian had, they just worked faster.

the house, they encountered room upon room of books. They cancelled the retreat without hesitation and made an effort to clear the whole house out by that evening.

"We didn't have to say a word to the chapter. They stayed throughout the entire day and never complained once," Fulwider said.

Among the 20-plus chapter members were several alumni, some who knew McClure for many years. According to Fulwider, McClure was one of the main reasons the chapter, which is celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2014, is one of two chapters in California never to lose its charter.

"He truly guided us through the toughest times," Fulwider said. "By moving him out, we were only paying back a small portion of what he gave to SigEp and Cal Theta."

Although McClure has appeared less often recently because of his health, his influence is crucial to the chapter's accom-

"A friend is a second self."

~ ARISTOTLE

plishments. According to Dao, a recent Zollinger Outstanding Senior Award recipient, the chapter ranks second in grades, second in manpower, and is a recent Greek Week winner. "We didn't realize how far his reach had gone until we met some of the older alumni that afternoon," Dao said. "I've never seen someone give so unselfishly to a chapter."

The chapter intends to hang a portrait of McClure in the house. Each member is pitching in on the effort. As you walk through the house, you'll see several reminders of John McClure's legacy, especially in the library. McClure's love for books and for the California Theta Chapter prompted him to donate the library to the chapter, and the room is dedicated to him.

A plaque dated April 17, 1971, reads, "The ideal brother seeks no honor, he is recognized by his endeavors. He is not driven by selfish motives; he strives for a brotherhood of all. The ideal brother is John McClure."



Sadly, the Fraternity was notified at press time that Brother John McClure passed away on April 15, 2012. Our thoughts and prayers are with his family, friends and brothers.

Rensselaer founding father Forster passes

By JUSTIN ZETH, Rensselaer '14



Byron D. Forster

Byron D. Forster, Rensselaer '41, had an expansive, diverse life. Highlights include serving in World War II, including serving as an FBI undercover agent, being a stock tycoon, grand juror,

and signer of the charter for SigEp's New York Delta Chapter. He passed away in January at the age of 91.

Like many, Forster began his studies at RPI as an engineer, but soon realized that he had the potential to become the boss of engineers so he switched to management. On campus, he was a member of RPI Players and one of the only students with his own car, but nothing quite surpassed his experience as a SigEp.

Forster signed the charter for New York Delta on April 23, 1938, and proudly recruited 10 men in the first year, while serving as an Interfraternity Council delegate. The difficulty in starting a new fraternity on a campus among many well-established fraternities was a great challenge, and he remembered it well. After graduating from RPI, he returned

home to work for his father, but soon decided to enlist in the Army Air Corps. Trained as an aircraft mechanic, Forster repaired and maintained fighter planes, claiming that he was able to diagnose a plane's problem simply from a pilot's verbal description.

While in the heat of World War II, Forster was recruited to become an undercover FBI agent. After the war, he returned home to the family business. Five years later, he went to work for the Reynolds Corporation. Working in Manhattan, Forster hit the Wall Street jackpot, investing in a stock worth \$3 per share that later became worth \$330 per share. With his great financial success, he left the Reynolds Corporation and started his own financial consulting company, which helped to manage and finance over 20 companies.

Brother Forster spent his final years in Dallas, but he visited Rensselaer every year. The chapter feels fortunate to have known one of its founding members, who did so much for the Rensselaer community. He received the 1970 Albert Fox Demers Medal, the Rensselaer Alumni Association's second highest honor for alumni who show a profound interest in the welfare of the Institute. He will be missed.

Brothers fly Delta... in the cockpit



Pilots **Jay Kuenzle, Virginia '79** (left), and **Jim Fryer, Pennsylvania State '85**, recently flew together as crew members on a Delta Air Lines Boeing 737-800. After college, Kuenzle flew the F-4 Phantom in the Marine Corps until he was hired at Delta in 1989. Fryer flew the B-1 bomber in the Air Force and was hired at Delta in 2000. Both pilots are based in New York.

“He who is not a good servant will not be a good master.” ~ PLATO

All my life through: Western Michigan alumni take these words to heart

In 1956, a class of 45 joined the SigEp chapter at Western Michigan. Although some brothers had stayed in touch over the next five decades, an alumni gathering called “Blast from the Past,” rekindled the spirit of brotherhood among even more of them.

In 2001, **Jim Karling, '60**, and **Bill Morgan, '61**, took on the task of organizing graduates from 1959 to 1963. They and other brothers from the era timed the event near Homecoming to encourage attendance and activities with the undergraduate brothers. Over 50 brothers and their guests showed up for an entertaining weekend of golfing, a banquet, tailgating and the football game on Saturday and a Sunday brunch.

The group had so much fun that they decided to make it a biennial event. They take turns organizing, and committed alumni such as **Fred Sitkins, '59**, **Lee Philport, '59**, **Fred**



A group of Western Michigan alumni from the late 50s and early 60s have been gathering for over a decade.

Dickie, '61, **Harry Dahl, '61**, **Bill Vitale, '60**, and **Dave Hughes, '61**, have assured the event's success. They had their sixth gathering in 2011. University officials, such as the athletic director, alumni relations director and several university presidents have been invited to help keep brothers apprised of campus progress. **Jim Bernard, '60**, is proud of his brothers' efforts to stay in touch and said, “Let's celebrate that wonderful verse [from the SigEp Anthem]: ‘Dear Old Fraternity, All my life through.’ That says it all for us!”

SigEp programming improvements needed to stay relevant to today's fraternity man

By **SHANE MCKEE**, Washington State Renaissance, Member Development Manager

Today's college men, especially those joining fraternities, bring with them unique desires and challenges. The latest research makes it clear that many college men are struggling with alcohol and drug-related issues, engaging in all types of risky behavior, struggling with mental health issues and are not excelling in the classroom like they once had.

Meanwhile, most of today's college men are also struggling to understand themselves and their masculinity, a scenario

that impedes their ability to succeed inside and outside of the classroom. For SigEp to deliver successful development programs and services for members, we must first solve one major dilemma: SigEp men need the programs we offer, but sometimes their own perceptions about masculinity get in the way. So we need to innovate again in how we think about the marketing, delivery and execution of

our programs and events.

SigEp has long been a leader and innovator in the fraternity world, and today is no different. Over the past year, we have begun an exhaustive examination of every aspect of each of our national leadership programs (EDGE, the Carlson Leadership Academy, the Ruck Leadership Institute, Grand Chapter Conclave, and the Tragos Quest to Greece) and worked to redesign, reframe and reinvigorate these programs so they have a greater impact on our members.

We have adhered to a number of key principles as we revitalize our programs, including:

- increasing our focus on experiential learning
- incorporating more research on today's college man, masculinity and leadership
- providing more practical and skill-



The SigEp Programs and Events Team piloted new curriculum for EDGE this spring, like this one in southern Illinois and one in Nebraska, left. After adjustments and refinements, the program will be formally launched in the fall of 2012.



On Feb. 8, 2012, SigEp asked our Facebook community:

"What do you think is the most important issue facing Fraternities today?"

Michael Rokicki:

The **perceptions** of people not in them and going about ways to break those perceptions.

Jeff Benson: The perception that "Everyone else is doing this." Fraternity men and specifically **SigEps need to be better** than everyone else—we say we aspire to realize our creed, but members cop out when confronted; saying that they are only doing what all other college kids do.



based training to members that will benefit them during college and long after ■ offering personal and professional development opportunities for our members at every stage of their college career in national and local programming; and ■ more rigorously assessing the value and benefit of the programs we are offering.

EDGE deepens understanding of self

The EDGE program redesign is a useful example of how SigEp has put program innovation into practice to better serve our members. When EDGE began as New Member Camp around 2000, it was created to focus on the risk management problems caused by substance abuse issues involving new members and the lack of educational programming (fraternity-based and university-based) on this issue.

Since then, while EDGE underwent minor changes, its general premise remained the same. Meanwhile, colleges and universities across the country have increased their educational programming in many areas (alcohol education, healthy dating, sexual assault and rape prevention, healthy eating, time management, diversity, etc.) to address what they see as the most pertinent issues facing today's college students.

During our research on EDGE, we found ample evidence to indicate that much of our EDGE program was or soon will be available to our members through the university or local chapter program-

ming. We needed to create an experience that enables members to understand themselves on a deeper level and how they can make values-based decisions.

Comprehending the roots of self-esteem and masculinity will allow them to make healthier decisions and avoid some of the missteps that can derail a member and even his chapter. This newly redesigned program was piloted throughout the spring. Based on participant and facilitator feedback, an improved EDGE program will be launched in the fall.

Life After College is new for SigEp

Another example of innovation is our newly launched Life After College program, which is focused on preparing our juniors and seniors personally and professionally for their life after college. This program was based on feedback from upperclassmen that we needed to help them begin to transition toward life once they graduate.

The first pilot program in early March covered topics such as

continued, page 44

“A man’s most valuable trait is a judicious sense of what not to believe.”

~ EURIPIDES



The Life After College program includes sessions on resume writing, interviews and networking, top-of-mind subjects for juniors and seniors.

Cody Hesser:

Helping produce **balanced leaders** for an ever changing world! Indiana Delta 89!

Zach Collard: Lack of coverage about

the good we do for the communities we are in.

Tyson McLean: Young men not realizing the **benefits** of the BMP and the Leadership

Continuum and joining for the wrong reasons. If we were a fraternity full of the leaders headquarters aspires for us to be, we would be **breaking down stereotypes** nationwide instead of joining them.

Christian Randall :

The negative way that the **media portrays us** scares parents from allowing their sons to rush.

Why it's personal

By **SHANE MCKEE**, Washington Renaissance, Member Development Manager

Programming, continued from page 43

effective networking, resume development, financial education, business etiquette and job interviews as well as preparing for personal challenges such as dating, marriage and work-life balance. The program received encouraging initial feedback. One student said, "This program was extremely beneficial to me as I prepare for graduation. We need more of this type of stuff and want it. I hope this program continues to grow and expand."

These newly redesigned programs will be successful with volunteer and undergraduate engagement. Our programs are only as powerful as the volunteers who help facilitate them. Get involved today.

Not that long ago, I was a struggling college man, trying to find myself, understand my identity, develop healthy relationships, and navigate the college environment in a successful manner. However, my time in college was filled with a variety of unhealthy relationships, the tragic suicide of my brother at the age of 22, the separation of my parents after 27



with everything around me.

I did not have a strong support network. I periodically used alcohol to manage my emotions. I hid my insecurities by jumping into intimate relationships. I thought I was the only one dealing with major life issues. I believed I could handle everything myself. I was wrong. For those reasons, I am passionate about studying men's issues and masculinity related to the college male experience. I strive to develop educational programs that aid men in more successfully navigating the college experience

and life beyond.

The notion that there is a crisis concerning men in higher education these days has become almost a journalistic commonplace (Kimmel, 2004). College men, and more specifically fraternity men, are struggling inside and outside of the classroom on campuses across the country. Male academic underachievement, lack of engagement, risky sexual behavior, alcohol-related issues, mental health issues, and an overrepresentation in judicial proceedings are just a few of the male-specific concerns facing administrators on campuses across the country.

Some of our brothers are already a statistic. Some of our newest members could avoid becoming a statistic, especially if we continue our renewed focus on designing educational programs that better engage and support our members. Our programs also have to constructively challenge members on some of their misconstrued beliefs about what it means to be a man, and aid them in developing a

healthier sense of self.

Maybe I would have been more successful navigating my way through all of these life issues, if I had the opportunity to experience programming similar to what SigEp offers.

Over the last 10 years, I have tried to make a positive impact on the lives of college men across the country as I earn my Ph.D. in higher education. Since 2010 I have had the unique opportunity to engage and influence a new population of male students, my Sigma Phi Epsilon Fraternity brothers. And like my brother wrote to me in a letter he sent just before he passed away, "If all of my experiences and the things I have done wrong make you realize what not to do as a man, then I have succeeded as your brother."

**Interested in
facilitating
a SigEp
program?
Contact
Shane
McKee at
shane.mckee@
sigep.net**



The first pilot of the Life After College program was held in the Los Angeles area. Tom Barton, Loras '89, above left, was among the facilitators. One attendee said, "This was an awesome experience. I am excited to get home and share it with my brothers."

years of marriage, bouts of depression and anxiety stemming from my inability to cope

Jake Lohse:

Developing Men of Character, stable beliefs, and lasting responsibility.

These are turning into rare qualities in men of all races, creeds, and religions. We don't buy into the principles of the balanced man, and don't realize their importance until much later in life.

Paul Erickson:

Staying relevant.

Making the member experience matter



By **BRIAN C. WARREN JR.**
Virginia '04,
Executive Director

Fraternities have been in the news quite a bit this year. And, too often, reports describe in painful detail scenarios that fly in the face of our values.

Who said all press is good press?

In an ironic way, I guess it is.

When our own chapters draw the kind of media attention that makes us cringe, we are reminded that we still have work to do if this Fraternity will be different.

Today, undergraduate men face a multitude of challenges. Compared to college females, college men are engaging in riskier behavior, performing worse academically, dealing with more severe mental stress and emotional issues, and dropping out at higher rates. On top of all of that, fewer are prepared for the personal and professional challenges that await them beyond campus walls.

Something is missing in higher education. There is a void of support outside of the classroom—the very place where the majority of the collegiate experience unfolds.

The college years—ages 18 to 22—are some of the most transformative years of a person's life. I believe it is a *worthy endeavor* to make that transformative experience a positive one; to give each one of our members the experience we espouse; to partner with higher education and address these concerning trends head on; to foster a fraternity experience that is newsworthy because it is uniquely great.

What you can expect in 2012-2013

As we have done the past two academic years, the staff will continue working with volunteers to review the entire undergraduate member experience and determine where additional focus and resources are needed.

Much of the information obtained—feedback from undergraduates and volunteers throughout the year, suggestions from higher education, and figures

pulled from our member database—underscored three themes.

The first 30 days

Professionals in the higher education community will echo what those in corporate Human Resources tell us to practice. Whether you call it orientation or on-boarding, the first few weeks (a relatively small window of time) dramatically influence the expectations, attitudes, behaviors and overall level of engagement moving forward.

For SigEp, that means the front-end of the new member experience largely defines a brother's entire experience. If we're truly committed to an undergraduate experience that inspires a lifetime of brotherhood, we have to start with the first 30 days.

Within Zollinger House, we've started the First 30 Days initiative. Our goal is to work with our volunteers and host institutions to provide every new member of SigEp with relevant programming, timely communications (to parents as well), and a network of support that facilitates a healthy and successful transition to college, rules out any possibility of hazing, and challenges them in ways that will shape their lives as balanced men.

Peer-to-peer education

For years, surveys from our programs have called for, "more interaction with guys from other chapters," and we've done what we can to adjust program curriculum accordingly. It is clear that our undergraduate brothers are the most influential source for changing behavior across the organization.

Given the limited number of opportunities to attend regional and national programs, we are focusing on helping brothers tell their stories and providing them a platform to share their stories throughout the year with their brothers at other chapters.

The current executive officers from Mississippi State and Illinois State have battled deep-rooted tradition and begun monumental changes within each of their chapters and Greek communities. They wanted to share their experience with officers of other chapters, so they sat down with members of the staff to

film lessons they have learned. Their message will be shared with chapters throughout the fall 2012 semester as we begin a new academic year.

This story is just the first example of a new approach we are incorporating into our efforts to help chapters share best practices and elevate the SigEp experience across the country—and avoid some of the headline-grabbing activities so often featured in the news.

Life after college

In this issue's Fraternity Report, you will read about a few of the things SigEp is doing to improve the content and delivery of current programs. You will also see that we've added a new program—Life After College, a regional program designed to impart many of the important life skills that are not taught in a classroom.

For those upperclassmen who cannot attend a program in 2012-2013, recorded sessions will be posted on www.sigep.org. We also intend to round out our 2012-2013 plans with a more structured and strategic approach to utilizing professional networking sites like LinkedIn and BranchOut.

SigEp has tried to implement a professional networking plan before. One effort just happened to align with the high unemployment period during the Great Depression. Today, technology affords us so many advantages. Connecting is as easy as pressing a button and facilitating a process via a site that is already highly trafficked.

In previous *Journals*, I've talked about our challenges with attrition and my concern with upperclassmen choosing to leave SigEp before graduation. What if those who said, "I'm leaving SigEp to focus on life after college," started to say, "I *remained involved* in SigEp to focus on my life after college"?

What if our press coverage focused on that?

"If we're truly committed to an undergraduate experience that inspires a lifetime of brotherhood, we have to start with the first 30 days."

SigEp's "Ambassador of Brotherhood" will be missed

By **DOUGLAS D. SCHEIBE**, Kansas State '87
Executive Director, Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation



Past Grand President and Order of the Golden Heart Recipient **Jack D. Wheeler, North Texas '61**, passed away in Salado, Texas in September.

Brother Wheeler presided as Grand President during the 75th anniversary of the Fraternity from 1975-77. He was elected to the National Board of Directors in 1971. Previously he had served as a district governor and as a faculty member at leadership academies.

After his term as Grand President, he continued to serve the Fraternity in many ways, probably most remembered as SigEp's Ambassador of Brotherhood, giving speeches at Conclave, academies and chapters about the need to remember and practice brotherly love. He implored brothers to give their best "and then some!" It was in that spirit that Jack and his wife, Kate, established the Honor of Philias award and endowment in 1989.

This award is given at each Conclave to the chapter or individual that has best exemplified brotherly love in their actions within their chapter, campus or community. It has become a highlight of every Conclave since, and recipients' names are engraved on a monument at Headquarters in Richmond, Va.

Brother Wheeler also served as a Trustee and Life Trustee of the Sigma Phi Epsilon Educational Foundation,

including a term as president. He was a lifelong donor to the Foundation. In 2010, his beloved home chapter established the Texas Beta Jack Wheeler Scholarship Fund.

Remembering Jack

Grand President **Bert Harris, Florida '74**, said, "We are most fortunate that one of his great passions was Sigma Phi Epsilon. Jack and Kate established the Honor of Philias to recognize brothers and chapters who have shown brotherly love in great depth or abundance. One of Jack's great fraternal legacies will be that he left large footprints leading the way for us all to be better brothers."

Educational Foundation President **Jay Hurt, Davidson '88**, said, "I first met Jack when I was an undergraduate and heard him speak on brotherly love. I was immediately struck by Jack's bigger-than-life persona and his genuine love for the Fraternity and even more so, its brothers. Jack loved people and he wasn't afraid to wear his heart on his sleeve. I will always remember Jack's bear hugs and the love that they conveyed, and I will miss them. Jack didn't just talk about brotherly love... he put his money where his mouth was. His generosity to Sigma Phi Epsilon and his commitment of time to lead our Fraternity and our Foundation was an inspiration to me and a great example for us all."

The contribution and legacy of Brother Wheeler can be found in his letter in the August, 1976 *Journal* celebrating the Fraternity's 75th anniversary. In that issue he recognized several

brothers who influenced him along the way—Texas Beta brothers **Dan Hinkle, '60**, who led him to pledge, **Bob Wilkins, '61**, who taught him the integrity of the Fraternity, **Don Raburn, '60**, for his concern for others, and **Bob Ezell, '60**, for teaching him responsible leadership. He also recognized alumnus **Frank Martino, Texas-Austin '49**, for mentoring his chapter and Past Grand President **Bedford Black, Wake Forest '41**, for teaching him the value and significance of brotherly love.

In Jack's Own Words

However, it is in his words about Past Grand President **Ed Zollinger, William & Mary '27**, that one can now find characteristics applicable to Brother Wheeler: "When others could not find excitement, he was there to take the reins, and when others did not have the time, he found the time. He was, and is, for many of us, the 'adrenaline' which has changed more than a brotherhood's organization, but has altered literally hundreds of your brother's lives by his example."

He went on to say, "My only fears for the future of our greatness have not to do with the principles of Sigma Phi Epsilon. My fears are that too many brothers might someday feel that they, as individual brothers, do not have responsibility, or feel they do not have the time, the talent or understanding to make a contribution.

"The undergraduate who has been depending on his chapter brothers



National Directors Larry Campbell, Lewis and Clark '53, Wheeler, and future Grand Presidents Carl Petersen, Muhlenburg '49, and Bruce Hasenkamp, Dartmouth '60, tended to board business in the mid 70s. At right, Wheeler with wife, Kate, at the 2005 Conclave. Jack and Kate established the Honor of Philias award in 1989.

to carry the load must reassess. The alumnus who has been inactive since his graduation and is convinced he knows too little about the brothers or brotherhood to make a significant contribution must, likewise, reassess.

"What would your life be had it not been for the individual brother or brothers in your history?"



Study abroad scholarship awarded

This year is the first time the Educational Foundation will award the Study Abroad Scholarship, which will provide \$1,000 to a brother studying in another country. The endowment was established by an anonymous donor who recognized the popularity and necessity of study abroad programs and the additional needs these programs would create for undergraduate brothers.

Paul Wasserman, Yale '14, has been chosen as the inaugural recipient. Brother Wasserman majors in Russian and East European Studies with a 3.8 GPA. He will spend the summer in St. Petersburg in an intense language fluency and cultural program that will provide class credit.

"I will spend this summer studying Russian in St. Petersburg. In addition to improving my language skills, I cannot wait to experience a completely different culture - one that I grew up reading about in history books and stories from the Cold War," Wasserman said. He hopes to work in the Foreign Service or the State Department.

Bret Harrell cares about the future.

His future. His brothers' future. Our future.



Bret Harrell, Nebraska-Omaha '12, learned lessons about life and his chapter at SigEp's leadership programs including the 2011 Tragos Quest to Greece (pictured here).

Will you help?

SigEp senior Bret Harrell, Nebraska-Omaha '12, became a donor to the Foundation as a sophomore. At the 2009 Conclave, he pledged to "do whatever I can to return the favor." Give to the Foundation's Annual Fund to ensure that the men following in your footsteps are prepared to lead and improve the future.

How to give:

- Mail a check in the envelope in this *Journal*.
- Give online at www.sigepfoundation.org/donations.
- Call 804-421-GPA1 (4721).



**Sigma Phi Epsilon
Educational Foundation**

foundation.info@sigep.net | www.sigepfoundation.org
(804) 421-GPA1 (4721)



@SigEpFoundation

In Memoriam

The following is a partial listing of SigEps by state of the member's home chapter who have passed away in recent months.

Names in red are national volunteers or those who have received national recognition for their service such as the Order of the Golden Heart, Volunteer of the Year, Distinguished Alumnus or Citation.

It is our chance to remember those brothers who, through their death, have reminded us that life is transitory.

To inform the Fraternity of the death of a member, e-mail the obituary to communications@sigep.net or send to: In Memoriam, Sigma Phi Epsilon, 310 South Boulevard, Richmond, Va. 23220.

Alabama

David W. Thursby
Auburn '71

Arkansas

A.C. Brown III
Arkansas Tech '10

Arizona

Jonathan R. Feldman
Arizona State '87

California

Ashar Deen
Fresno State '99
Gordon M. Diggle
Southern California '49

Colorado

Matthew P. Barger
Colorado State '92
Gale E. Brown
Colorado '52
Bernie J. Ferris
Colorado School of Mines '47
Glen E. Hasse
Colorado School of Mines '62
Allen C. Howerton
Northern Colorado '63
R. Jack Warren
Northern Colorado '56

Delaware

Alexander J.
Taylor III
Delaware '31

District of Columbia

Harold L. Dorsett
George Washington '38

Florida

Bertram N. Herlong
Florida '56

Georgia

Edwin B. Etheredge
Georgia Tech '43

Iowa

John R. Carney
Iowa '52
John L. Phillips
Iowa State '55
Kreg A. Yungelas
Iowa State '56

Illinois

Walter J. Kraus
Illinois '55

Indiana

Carl A. Carr
Purdue '72 (past student director)

Jack D. Gibson
Ball State '70
David P. Gootee
Purdue '67

James D. Thomas
Purdue '48

Kansas

Lawrence P. Ball
Kansas '57
Gilbert W. Carl
Kansas State '41
Donald E. Crowl
Wichita State '60
Scott E. Soice
Wichita State '95
Merrill H. Werts
Kansas State '47

Kentucky

Jeffery S. Blakeman
Morehead State '79

Maryland

Frank E. Angier
Johns Hopkins '38

Massachusetts

Harold F. Anderson
Boston University '56
Robert J. Anderson
MIT '53
Curtis B. Flory III
MIT '56
Donald B. Hilton
Boston University '55
Michigan
Richard A. Benson
Central Michigan '67
Glenn E. Farrell
Western Michigan '69
N. Holladay Webb
Michigan '49

Mississippi

Wilbur H. Woleben
Mississippi State '48
Milton D. Brown
Mississippi '65
Henry D. Lindsay III
Mississippi '68

Missouri

Ralph A. Franke
Washington in St. Louis '58
James L. Maynard
Southeast Missouri State '63
Thomas K. McLaughlin
Southeast Missouri State '61
John C Minton
Missouri-Rolla '64

Montana

Bob J. Lerum
Montana '54

Nebraska

Raymond M. Beem
Nebraska-Omaha '56
Ronald G. Claussen
Nebraska-Omaha '58
Billy E. Kiffin
Nebraska-Omaha '54
John D. Mixan
Nebraska-Omaha '68

New Jersey

Kenneth E. Supko
Rutgers '64

New Mexico

Leo-Arthur Kelmenson
New Mexico '51

New York

Byron D. Forster
Rensselaer '41
Richard F. Ronston
NYU '59
Matthew P. Sapolin
NYU '93

North Carolina

J. William Bew
Duke '40
Kenneth Geyer
Belmont Abbey '49
William M. Herndon
Davidson '53
James L. Holloway
North Carolina State '50
Gene H. Little
Davidson '52
John A. Morris Jr.
Wake Forest '63
Leander N. Trammell
Davidson '50
Tommy L. Willis
Barton '58

Ohio

Benjamin C. VanCure
Youngstown State '72

Oklahoma

Howard P. Cotner
Oklahoma '48
James L. Pate
Oklahoma '54

Oregon

C. Wayne Robbins
Oregon State '49
Earl T. Sorensen
Oregon State '49

Pennsylvania

H. Robert Dursch
Pennsylvania State '45
Kenneth L. Klingerman
Pennsylvania '54
John S. Miers
Muhlenberg '65
Glenn E. Orndorf
Pennsylvania State '46

South Carolina

Frederick L. Day
South Carolina '61
Roger L. Krick Sr.
South Carolina '56

Tennessee

Michael E. Fernandez
Tennessee '74
Raymond M. Hair
Tennessee '46
Joshua S. Lawrence
Austin Peay '04
Dwight K. Lyons
East Tennessee State '54
Richard N. Mason
Memphis '73

Texas

Joe R. Blalack
Texas-Austin '59
Andre' Bouchard
Texas-Austin '59
Robert H. Caldwell Jr.
North Texas '48
Mervin B. Cook
Texas-Austin '58

Jerry H. Damon
North Texas '55
James R. Moore
Texas-Austin '74

Virginia

Robert S. Diehl
Washington & Lee '61
Amos A. Spady Jr.
Randolph-Macon '58
U. Leroy Sweeney
Randolph-Macon '38
John T. Watkins Jr.
Richmond '40

Washington

James N. Covington
Washington '85

West Virginia

David C. Wayland
Marshall '62

Wisconsin

Richard A. Fink
Lawrence '40
Joseph M. Kortenhof
Lawrence '50
Forrest L. Kubly
Wisconsin '40

Undergraduates

Jimmy R. Barnett
Nebraska-Kearney '15
Charles G. Butterworth
South Carolina '13
Matthew A. Heinzmann
Illinois State '12
Jake Von Der Vellen
Ohio Wesleyan '14

“Carpe diem!
Rejoice while
you are alive;
enjoy the day;
live life to the
fullest; make
the most of
what you have.
It is later than
you think.”

~ HORACE

“This Fraternity will be different...”

Wear the Difference – daily.



013R
Rope Chain, 18"
10K...\$135, GF...\$25,
SS...\$22
(Chain sold separately.)



snake
Snake Chain, 18"
14K...\$435 GF...\$28, SS...\$18
(Chain sold separately.)



105
Pearl Sweetheart Pendant
10K...\$109
(Chain sold separately.)



3252
Classic Ring
14K...\$624
10K, 10KW...\$428
Silvertone*...\$338



3301
Official Ring
14K...\$592, 10K...\$494
Silvertone*...\$314



0322
Balanced Man Ring
14K...\$458, 10K...\$338
Silvertone*...\$162



1901
Brotherhood Ring
10K...\$272, SS...\$74



138
Pearl Sweetheart Pin
10K...\$109



135
Sweetheart Pin
10K...\$64



2606
Badge Shape Pendant
10K...\$114, SS...\$44



L2604
Heart Lavalier
10K...\$52, SS...\$25



100
Official Plain Badge
10K...\$109



104
Official Pearl Badge
10K...\$198



115
Large Crown Pearl Badge
10K...\$235



0075
President's Pearl Badge
with three diamonds
10K...\$336



9005
Plain Crest Guard
10K...\$49, GP...\$22



9006
Enameled Crest Guard
10K...\$54, GP...\$26



4000
Oval Cufflinks
14K...\$422, GF...\$116,
SS...\$80



5000
Balanced Man Cufflinks
14K...\$422, GF...\$116



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GP...\$6



602
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10K...\$44, GP...\$23



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GF...\$69

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Skydiving: Celebrating 75 years with style

Bob Kirkpatrick, Idaho State '60, retired and living in Sarasota, Fla., celebrated his 75th birthday with a tandem freefall skydive from 13,500 feet. His wife, children and grandchildren watched from the ground as Kirkpatrick played out his gutsy plan for a memorable milestone birthday.

For more interesting Alumni and Volunteer News about your brothers, turn to page 36.

